

## IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

Idaho Department of Labor



Volume 14.01

Award-Winning Newsletter

January 2002 Issue/Year-in-Review Data

## IN THIS ISSUE...

**State Overview**

Unemployment Rate .....	1
Labor Force .....	1, 2
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs.....	4
Economic Indicators .....	41

<b>Panhandle</b> .....	5
------------------------	---

<b>Seaport</b> .....	9
----------------------	---

<b>Treasure Valley</b> .....	13
------------------------------	----

<b>Magic Valley</b> .....	23
---------------------------	----

<b>Southeast</b> .....	27
------------------------	----

<b>Northeast</b> .....	31
------------------------	----

**F.Y.I.**

Average Annual Labor Force Data by County, LMA, Cities.....	35
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs.....	39
State Economic Indicators .....	41
November LMA Labor Force....	42

<b>Glossary</b> .....	46
-----------------------	----

## State Overview

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

IDAHO COMPLETES 11<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF EXPANSION

As a new year begins, a review of the past year shows that Idaho's employment was on a decelerating trend in 2001. Employment gains continued at a brisk pace during the first half of the year, with growth slowing in the second half of the year. The 2001 unemployment rate is forecast to be 4.9 percent, unchanged from 2000.

Preliminary estimates indicate:

- **Average annual total employment** for 2001 topped 645,000 for the first time in the state's history. Total employment increased by 3.6 percent from 2000. The unemployment rate will average 4.9 percent for the year.
- The average number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 9,400 from 2000. Only about one-half of *Nonfarm* industries in State Table 1 (page 4) had an increase in the number of jobs.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

The year of 2001 continued the 1990s trend of growth in employment and a low unemployment rate. However, the growth slowed significantly across the state as the year progressed. Even the Boise MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area), which has been a major growth area, experienced an increase in jobless workers and a higher unemployment rate toward year's end.

These labor market trends are generally reinforced by the regional analyses contained in this issue of *Idaho Employment*, but there are noticeable differences in the regional economies and developments. Statewide data can mask these regional developments and, although an industry can show a small statewide change, regional industrial movements are often more dramatic.

## LABOR FORCE

The state's labor force numbers (FYI Table 1 on page 4) indicate steady growth in the *Civilian Labor Force* and Total Employment. Both unemployment and employment numbers show a significant increase over 2000. Since August the number of individuals working has dropped steadily, and the number of unemployed showed increases in excess of 19 percent from the prior month in both November and December.

FYI Table 1 (pages 35-38) provides labor force estimates for each labor market area, county, and selected cities. There was a very mixed picture around the state. In some cases, a high unemployment rate was expected and experienced in counties dominated by natural resource industries. This was especially true in many of Idaho's lower populated counties.

One method of measuring the impact of unemployment is assessing the use of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. After the big recession in the 1930's,

**This issue of *Idaho Employment* is a 2001 year-in-review. It includes projected data and analysis for the state and the six labor market areas. The February issue will resume our normal *Idaho Employment* monthly update information.**

See us online at  
[www.labor.state.id.us](http://www.labor.state.id.us)

the UI program was established to help people who lose their jobs with some means of monetary compensation. The average weekly benefit amount for 2001 was \$213. The amount does not always make up for lost wages, but it does enable the worker to maintain some standard of living. The 2001 year-end figures for Idaho's UI program confirm that the Idaho Department of Labor paid out the highest amount ever in benefits—\$149.6 million—a 40.4 percent increase from the payout of \$106.6 million in 2000. Gem County had the largest percentage increase in payouts at 106.7 percent year-over-year, growing from \$1.38 million to \$2.85 million, largely attributable to the closure of the Boise Cascade plant. The largest dollar increase was in Ada County where \$29.13 million was paid out—an 80.0 percent increase from the \$16.18 million paid out in 2000. Layoffs in the area's electronics sector accounted for a significant share of that increase.

While the payouts in 2001 were substantial, they were much worse, comparatively speaking, in 1982 in the height of the last major recession when the UI Trust Fund nearly went broke. For 2001 to be comparable in severity to that recession, the department would have had to pay out \$368.4 million in benefits, or 146 percent more than the 2001 payout. Considering 2001's substantial increase in benefit payments, the state's Trust Fund held up fairly well, dropping from \$340.4 million in December 2000 to \$312.7 million in December 2001—a \$27.7 million decrease. Although the UI claims data is not the only input used to calculate the state's unemployment rates, it is a major input used in the regression model.

During 2001, four counties had double-digit unemployment rates: Clearwater at 14.3 percent, Adams at 13.0 percent, Shoshone at 11.9 percent, and Benewah at 12.4 percent. Idaho County, at 9.4 percent, was the only county exceeding 9.0 percent (besides the four double-digit counties). Eight of the ten North Idaho counties had unemployment rates above 7.0 percent. Nez Perce and Latah Counties were the exceptions with unemployment rates of 4.0 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively. The most urbanized county in North Idaho, Kootenai, is projected to have a 7.8 percent unemployment rate. The annual average unemployment rate for Gem County, which experienced the largest increase in UI claims, was 7.6 percent, up from 5.8 percent in 2000.

The more populated counties in southern Idaho fared much better—Bannock at 4.6 percent, Twin Falls at 4.1 percent, and Bonneville at 3.2 percent. Both Ada and Canyon Counties experienced higher unemployment rates in 2001 due to a large number of layoffs in the electronics industry. Ada County's rate was 3.4 percent, up from 3.0 percent in 2000, while Canyon County's rate increased to 5.1 percent from 4.5 percent year-over-year. With the exception of Canyon County, these unemployment rates are within many economists' definition of full employment—4.0 to 5.0 percent. Overall, the 2001 unemployment rate statistics indicate a healthy economy; however, there is more to the story when the industrial numbers are examined.

## AGRICULTURE EMPLOYMENT

Idaho's 2001 average *Agriculture* employment is estimated at 32,454—5.4 percent less than the 2000 average. *Agriculture* employment was 5.0 percent of the state's average total employment in 2001. That share will probably remain stable or decline in the future as farm employment has hovered around 35,000 for several years while total employment has continually increased. The drought and power shortages plagued the agriculture sector in 2001, and the future remains clouded. Last year's

*IDAHO EMPLOYMENT* is published monthly by the Idaho Department of Labor. All information is in the public domain and may be duplicated without permission; however, the Idaho Department of Labor should be cited as the source.

*IDAHO EMPLOYMENT* is funded either partially or entirely by federal grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor. Ninety-five percent of administrative funding at the Idaho Department of Labor is provided by these federal grants, with the remainder funded by state sources. Fiscal Year 2000 administrative expenditures for the Idaho Department of Labor totaled \$39,968,552.

Questions and comments can be directed to Public Affairs by phoning (208) 332-3570, ext. 3220 or by E-mail to:

[jhyer@labor.state.id.us](mailto:jhyer@labor.state.id.us)

Or to the Regional Labor Economists noted in each area news section.

**DIRK KEMPTHORNE, GOVERNOR**

**Roger B. Madsen, Director**



Idaho's Workforce Development System  
[www.idahoworks.org](http://www.idahoworks.org)

[Business Services](#)  
[Job Seekers](#)  
[Other Services](#)  
[Job Search](#)  
[Training & Education](#)  
[Career Center Locations](#)  
[Labor Market Information](#)  
[Search This Site](#)  
[Customer Evaluation](#)  
[Links to Other Sites](#)

The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
TTY 800-377-3529 through Idaho Relay Service.

extreme drought conditions had an adverse impact on the agricultural sector of Idaho's economy. Many reservoirs were below 50 percent capacity, and the prospect of water throughout the entire growing season was bleak. Idaho Power offered a buy-back program to help relieve a potential power shortage. According to Idaho Power figures, a total of 429 farmers participated in the power buy-back with a total of 154,439, or seven percent, of all acres taken out of production. This acreage may have included land on which farmers opted to plant dry land crops or use alternative means to operate pumps.

### **NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS**

Idaho's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* averaged 568,698 in 2001. As State Table 1 (page 4) shows, this number is 1.7 percent greater than 2001. The *Goods-Producing Industries* lost over 700 jobs with the *Service-Producing Industries* adding about 10,200 jobs.

All the published individual industries with employment in excess of 25,000 experienced an increase in the number of jobs in 2001. There was particular strength in *Health Services*, *Retail Trade*, *Local Government*, and *Business Services*. Conversely, *Lumber & Wood Products* experienced the largest loss of jobs during the year.

### **GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES**

The *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for 20.3 percent of the *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in 2001, down slightly from 20.7 percent in 2000. The *Manufacturing* industries performed poorly in 2001, with only *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* showing a growth in jobs. *Mining* continued to lose jobs as employment is at its lowest level. Some significant events in the *Mining* sector included the closure of the Sunshine and the Lucky Friday mines in Shoshone County.

Growth in *Construction* continued but at a much slower pace with only 770 new jobs in 2001. The decrease in interest rates helped keep residential construction stable, which also had a positive impact on the *Special Trade Contractors* sector. When residential construction slows, so does the number of *Special Trade Contractors* jobs because much of the specialty work is contracted out.

Within *Manufacturing*, there were hardly any bright spots. The two electronic manufacturing sectors, which have been the major expansion industries over the past five years, reported a slowdown in job growth during 2001. The number of new jobs was slightly over 800 compared to 1,500 new jobs created between 1999 and 2000. All of the growth was in *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, exc. Computers*, which includes Micron Technology Inc. The other electronic industry, *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment*, experienced numerous layoffs during the year. Companies affected by the layoffs included Zilog,

Jabil, MCMS, Micronpc.com, Gould-AMI, and Hewlett-Packard.

As in 2000, every major sector of Idaho's *Lumber & Wood Products* industry lost jobs in 2001, caused by several factors. Most of the 2000-2001 sawmill employment reductions were due to low lumber prices and excess inventory. Some logging operations have been adversely affected by the lack of land available for timber harvest. Idaho's lumber industry traditionally has relied on timber from the state's national forests and other public lands. The amount of timber available for harvest on these lands continues to decrease and the future prospects of available timber are bleak. This, along with Canadian imports, the slowdown in national housing starts, lumber being replaced by synthetic materials, and depressed prices resulted in a loss of jobs at many of the state's sawmills. Most sawmills in Northern Idaho experienced temporary layoffs at various times during the year. However, several sawmills closed. The impact of specific closures and layoffs are discussed at length in the Panhandle and Seaport sections. It is estimated that, statewide, over 1,500 *Lumber & Wood Products* jobs were lost last year.

The *Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits & Vegetables & Food Specialties* component of *Food Processing* lost over 200 jobs in 2001 as a result of the drought and power shortages. The number of sugar beet and potato acres planted this year was around 90 percent of the average of the last three years. In addition, the yield was down from last year resulting in less product to process, leading to less processing time, which resulted in the need for fewer employees. For example, the sugar beet harvest was completed a month early; consequently, seasonal employee layoffs occurred in December rather than January or February.

### **SERVICES-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES**

Overall, the *Services-Producing Industries* provided all of the new *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* created in 2001. Although not all industries in this sector experienced employment growth, two-thirds of the new jobs were created in the *Services* industries, particularly *Health Services* and *Business Services*. *Health Services* jobs increased 9.0 percent year-over-year by adding an estimated 1,900 jobs. Several new hospitals staffed up and others expanded their facilities. The recent trend of large hospitals taking management control of smaller, rural hospitals continued during the year.

The hospital sector of *Health Services* added over 1,000 new jobs during 2001 with the expansion of hospitals across the state. Employment at temporary staffing businesses was stable in 2001 following a 4,500 job loss between 1999 and 2000. The number of jobs at call centers continued to expand in 2001. Not all call centers are

(continued on page 34)

State Table 1: Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment –State of Idaho

BY PLACE OF WORK	Preliminary Annual Average 2001	Annual Average 2000	Percent Change from 2001
Civilian Labor Force	681,508	657,712	3.6
Unemployment	33,083	31,914	3.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.9	
Employment	648,425	625,798	3.6
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	568,698	559,252	1.7
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	115,302	116,026	-0.6
<b>Mining</b>	2,140	2,425	-11.8
Metal Mining	870	1,221	-28.8
<b>Construction</b>	37,210	36,432	2.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>	75,953	77,169	-1.6
Durable Goods	46,874	47,916	-2.2
Lumber & Wood Products	11,102	12,607	-11.9
Logging	2,127	2,293	-7.2
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,168	4,752	-12.3
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,011	1,302	-22.4
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,796	4,260	-10.9
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,422	1,453	-2.1
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	3,024	3,031	-0.2
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	10,132	10,457	-3.1
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	15,280	14,209	7.5
Transportation Equipment	2,231	2,446	-8.8
Other Durable Goods	3,684	3,713	-0.8
Nondurable Goods	29,079	29,253	-0.6
Food Processing	17,222	17,252	-0.2
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,530	9,769	-2.4
Paper Products	2,147	2,226	-3.6
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,335	5,412	-1.4
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,300	2,332	-1.4
Other Nondurable Goods	2,075	2,031	2.2
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	453,396	443,226	2.3
<b>Transportation, Communications, &amp; Utilities</b>	28,754	27,937	2.9
Transportation	17,896	17,473	2.4
Railroad	1,358	1,454	-6.6
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	10,495	10,249	2.4
Communications	6,789	6,478	4.8
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4,069	3,985	2.1
<b>Trade</b>	141,781	140,987	0.6
Wholesale Trade	32,065	32,801	-2.2
Durable Goods	15,055	15,320	-1.7
Nondurable Goods	17,011	17,481	-2.7
Retail Trade	109,716	108,186	1.4
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,490	6,584	-1.4
General Merchandise Stores	13,789	12,719	8.4
Food Stores	19,082	19,489	-2.1
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,293	12,040	2.1
Eating & Drinking Places	38,222	37,663	1.5
<b>Finance, Insurance &amp; Real Estate</b>	23,807	23,425	1.6
Banking	7,236	7,293	-0.8
<b>Services</b>	149,368	142,663	4.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	8,140	8,179	-0.5
Personal Services	4,493	4,302	4.4
Business Services	29,708	28,464	4.4
Amusement and Recreation Services	7,085	6,729	5.3
Health Services	37,720	35,822	5.3
Hospitals	12,789	11,735	9.0
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	18,801	17,941	4.8
<b>Government</b>	109,686	108,214	1.4
Federal Government	13,228	13,428	-1.5
State & Local Government	96,459	94,786	1.8
State Government	28,533	28,154	1.3
Education	13,410	13,050	2.8
Administration	15,124	15,104	0.1
Local Government	67,925	66,632	1.9
Education	38,427	37,574	2.3
Administration	29,498	29,059	1.5

1-Preliminary Estimate

2-Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

MATERIAL IN THIS DOCUMENT IS PUBLIC DOMAIN AND MAY BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. HOWEVER, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SHOULD BE CITED AS THE SOURCE.



# PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Employment statistics for November 2001 compared to the month before and the year before are shown on FYI Table 4 (page 42). The U.S. recession continued to take a toll on the region's mining, construction, and manufacturing sectors in November, as described in recent newsletters.

Instead of focusing on November, this newsletter will review 2001. Because statistics for the entire year are not available yet, this review makes educated guesses about the net result of economic developments in 2001. Estimates of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in each Panhandle county are shown in Panhandle Table 2 (pages 6 and 8). It's important to remember we are looking at the average monthly statistics for the entire year. So the sharp drop in employment after September 11 only affects one quarter of the year.

Another important thing to remember is that 2000 was a hard year for many of the Panhandle's timber communities. Starting in May 2000, low lumber prices forced many mills to cut employment. Some cut work hours or reduced shifts, but most responded by intermittently shutting down. The crisis in the lumber industry ended by October 2000, and most mills kept employment steady through early September 2001. After September 11, a sharp drop in lumber prices pushed the Panhandle's *Lumber & Wood Products* industry into another period of reduced employment and intermittent shutdowns.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS IN 2001

### Benewah County

In 2001, Benewah County's economy continued to perform sluggishly as it has every year since 1997. The county (with a population of 9,200 and a labor force of 4,400) added fewer than 50 jobs between 2000 and 2001. (See Panhandle Table 2 on page 6.) Job losses in the retail and construction sectors offset gains in other sectors. As has been the case in recent

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, & Shoshone Counties	Projected 2001	2000	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	91,136	88,570	2.9%
Unemployed	7,563	7,365	2.7%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.3%	8.3%	
Total Employment	83,573	81,205	2.9%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	67,050	66,382	1.0%
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	13,950	14,586	-4.4%
Mining & Construction	5,340	5,761	-7.3%
Manufacturing	8,610	8,826	-2.4%
Lumber & Wood Products	4,080	4,268	-4.4%
All Other Manufacturing	4,530	4,558	-0.6%
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	53,100	51,796	2.5%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	2,550	2,579	-1.1%
Wholesale Trade	2,140	2,282	-6.2%
Retail Trade	15,070	15,082	-0.1%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,640	2,413	9.4%
Services	17,460	16,520	5.7%
Government Administration	7,820	7,724	1.2%
Government Education	5,420	5,196	4.3%

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

years, the western portion of the county, which is in the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, enjoyed job growth while the eastern part, containing St. Maries and Fernwood, experienced job erosion.

*Lumber & Wood Products* continues to dominate Benewah County's economy. In 2001, approximately 830—24 percent—of the 3,460 payroll jobs in Benewah County were directly in *Lumber & Wood Products*. The county only has four manufacturing operations not classified as *Lumber & Wood Products*. The largest of these operations, Peet's Shoe Dryer in St. Maries, employs 27 people. Benewah County generates little money from tourism. Its motels, restaurants, and amusement centers employ about 170 people, and its lodging revenues totaled \$271,223 in the first 11 months of 2001. The county's only mining operation, Emerald Creek Garnet near Fernwood, tends to keep its employment steady at 50 jobs. Mountain States Glass, a telemarketing center that employs more than 50 people in St. Maries, is the county's only call center. Given the small size of its non-lumber manufacturing, tourism, mining, and call center sectors, Benewah County's economic success still depends heavily on *Lumber & Wood Products*. The wood products industry fared well in the first part of the year, but has suffered job losses since September 11.

Panhandle Table 2: Labor Force &amp; Employment by County

<b>Benewah County</b>		<b>Estimated</b>		<b>Percent</b>
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>				<b>Change</b>
<i>Average Monthly Employment</i>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	
Total	3,412	3,460	1.4	
Goods-Producing Industries	1,032	1,040	0.8	
Mining & Construction	170	140	-17.6	
Manufacturing	862	900	4.4	
Lumber & Wood Products	805	830	3.1	
All Other Manufacturing	56	70	25.0	
Service-Producing Industries	2,381	2,420	1.6	
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	268	280	4.5	
Wholesale Trade	56	60	7.1	
Retail Trade	468	440	-6.0	
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	60	60	0.0	
Services	767	790	3.0	
Government Administration	482	500	3.7	
Government Education	280	290	3.6	

<b>Bonner County</b>		<b>Estimated</b>		<b>Percent</b>
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>				<b>Change</b>
<i>Average Monthly Employment</i>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	
Total	11,856	12,070	1.8	
Goods-Producing Industries	2,696	2,870	6.5	
Mining & Construction	890	940	5.6	
Manufacturing	1,806	1,930	6.9	
Lumber & Wood Products	961	1,060	10.3	
All Other Manufacturing	845	870	3.0	
Service-Producing Industries	9,159	9,200	0.4	
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	470	460	-2.1	
Wholesale Trade	321	320	-0.3	
Retail Trade	3,185	3,160	-0.8	
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	421	450	6.9	
Services	2,505	2,580	3.0	
Government Administration	1,393	1,380	-0.9	
Government Education	865	850	-1.7	

<b>Boundary County</b>		<b>Estimated</b>		<b>Percent</b>
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>				<b>Change</b>
<i>Average Monthly Employment</i>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>	
Total	3,433	3,200	-6.8	
Goods-Producing Industries	845	730	-13.6	
Mining & Construction	227	150	-33.9	
Manufacturing	619	580	-6.3	
Lumber & Wood Products	569	530	-6.9	
All Other Manufacturing	50	50	0.0	
Service-Producing Industries	2,588	2,470	-4.6	
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	166	150	-9.6	
Wholesale Trade	90	80	-11.1	
Retail Trade	484	440	-9.1	
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	61	50	-18.0	
Services	928	910	-1.9	
Government Administration	566	550	-2.8	
Government Education	293	290	-1.0	

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe's industrial park in Plummer was the source of the most new jobs this year. About 50 jobs were added by this summer's opening of Plummer Forest Products, a small-dimension lumber mill. This fall, Governor Kempthorne's Rural Idaho Initiative granted \$500,000 for expansion of the Pacific Northwest Fiberboard (PNF) strawboard plant. When construction is completed later this year, PNF will double employment to 56 jobs.

Although its tourism potential is largely untapped, Benewah County benefits from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's casino just over the county border in Worley. Following the opening of its 94-room motel in December 2000, the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Casino now employs more than 500 people. Last spring, work began on an 18-hole golf course, slated to open in 2002, and indoor and outdoor event arenas. The tribe is investigating the possibilities of adding 72 rooms to the hotel, a tourist train, a theme park, and a large RV park.

The tribe continues to pursue many other avenues for economic development while the St. Maries area is benefiting from the renewed vigor of its economic development organization, Timber Plus.

### Bonner County

The first nine months of 2001 were mostly good to Bonner County, whose population approaches 38,000 and whose labor force exceeds 17,700. (See Panhandle Table 2.) A rash of temporary shutdowns of lumber mills in the summer and fall of 2000 had raised Bonner County's unemployment rate to 9.0 percent in 2000. From November 2000 to September 2001, the county's lumber industry stabilized, allowing the county's unemployment rate to ease downward. It averaged 8.0 percent in 2001. In October, the lumber industry began experiencing another round of periodic shutdowns, and other sectors began cutting jobs.

Bonner County's manufacturing sector has become more diversified over time. In 2001, about 1,060 people worked in the *Lumber & Wood Products* industry, while another 870 people worked in a variety of other manufacturing operations. Because most of the county's lumber mills experienced brief shutdowns in 2000, *Lumber & Wood Products* employment fell from 1,057 jobs in 1999 to 961 jobs in 2000. With greater stability in the first nine months of 2001, *Lumber & Wood Products* employment returned to its 1999 level. In late 2001, a few of the county's mills temporarily shut down or reduced work hours. The rest of the county's manufacturing sector has barely been shaken by the U.S. recession, unlike the manufacturing sectors of neighboring counties.

Bonner County looks forward to the eventual expansion of two of its largest manufacturers. Litehouse Dressing, the Sandpoint maker of salad dressings, has future plans to build a new plant and add more than 50



jobs. Electronics manufacturer Encoder Products plans to add 150 new jobs in the Sandpoint area during the next two years.

Tourism plays an increasingly important role in Bonner County. During the ski season, lodging, restaurants, and recreational facilities employ about 1,720 people. Their employment falls to about 1,450 by May, and then rises to a peak of 1,820 in August. Then it falls to 1,450 again by October. Bonner County's lodging industry enjoyed slightly higher revenues during the first quarter of 2001 than during the first quarter of 2000 but by summer, slightly fewer tourists were visiting than the previous summer. Unlike neighboring Kootenai County, Bonner County did not see a significant drop in tourists after September 11. The net result was that lodging sales approached \$10 million in the first 11 months of 2001, up 2.4 percent from the same period the year before.

Despite a slowdown in construction, several projects were completed or broke ground in 2001. The Stoneridge development near Blanchard is improving its golf course and plans to develop hundreds of residential lots over the next 10 years. Harbor Resorts, owner of Schweitzer Mountain Resort near Sandpoint, currently is developing White Pine Lodge, a \$15 million development of 48 condominiums, fitness center, sauna, and retail space. An \$8.5 million inn with a small conference center will open at Swan's Landing near Sandpoint next July. Hidden Lakes Golf Resort, eight miles east of Sandpoint, completed its new clubhouse last spring and continues to develop residential lots around the course. Reel Entertainment soon will open a 12,000-square-foot, six-screen movie complex at the Bonner Mall in Ponderay. The Sandpoint area Wal-Mart became a supercenter in 2001 when it added a 57,000-square-foot full-service grocery store.

The U.S. recession forced Coldwater Creek, the Sandpoint-based catalog company, to reduce employment during 2001. More than 500 people work for Coldwater Creek in the Sandpoint area.

In late 2000, Bonner County leaders renewed their commitment to economic development by forming the Bonner Economic Development Corporation to recruit new businesses to the county and assist existing businesses to grow. Priest River Development Corporation continues to pursue opportunities for the western portion of the county.

### **Boundary County**

For some of Boundary County's 10,000 residents, 2001 was a rocky year because many of the county's 4,600 labor force participants endured job losses or reductions in work hours. (See Panhandle Table 2 on page 6.)

The county's largest employer, CEDU Family of Services, employs 350 people near Bonners Ferry at its edu-

cational and counseling programs for teens, including Rocky Mountain Academy. CEDU's employment in Boundary County remained about the same between 2000 and 2001.

Louisiana-Pacific now owns the county's two largest mills. For years, it has owned the mill in Moyie Springs, which employs more than 150 people. In 2001, it purchased the Crown Pacific sawmill in Bonners Ferry. The sawmill, which was built two years ago, employs about 100 people. The third largest mill, employing more than 80 people, is the Welco Mill in Naples. Altogether, the *Lumber & Wood Products* industry employs about 530 people in Boundary County. Between 2000 and 2001, mills and logging lost about 40 jobs.

Agricultural operations—especially the Elk Mountain hops farm owned by Anheuser-Busch, ornamental tree nurseries including Clifty View, and Christmas tree farms—employ up to 550 people in the busiest months and about 150 people even in the slowest months. Agricultural employment has stayed about the same during the last few years.

The Kootenai River Inn and Casino, owned by the Kootenai Tribe, is the centerpiece of Boundary County's tourism sector. Approximately 170 of the 190 jobs in the county's lodging industry are at the Kootenai River Inn and Casino. In addition, the county has about 140 jobs in restaurants and recreational facilities. According to the Idaho Tax Commission's Travel and Convention Tax Report, lodging revenues in Boundary County totaled \$2.2 million in the first 11 months of 2001—only 0.7 percent above their level in the same period of 2000. Tourism in the first eight months of 2001 was about the same level as in the same period the year before. The terrorist attacks on September 11 caused a sharp decrease in lodging revenues in September but October and November lodging revenues surged ahead of their levels year-over-year.

The Kootenai Tribe and the city of Bonners Ferry are working together to create an economic development plan that will foster the growth of existing businesses and allow the community to recruit new businesses. Plans include revitalizing downtown Bonners Ferry with landscaping and ornamental street lamps, creating a greenbelt for walking and biking along the Kootenai River, and developing the industrial park near the airport. This fall, Governor Kempthorne's Rural Initiative provided funds for an economic development director for the county for the next three years.

### **Kootenai County**

Kootenai County—the region's largest county with a population of 112,000—added about 1,030 jobs between 2000 and 2001. (See Panhandle Table 2 (cont.) on page 8.) Over half of those jobs came from the opening of Center Partners, a call center in Coeur d'Alene. While

Panhandle Table 2 (cont.): Labor Force &amp; Employment by County

<b>Kootenai County</b> <b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b> <i>Average Monthly Employment</i>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Estimated 2001</b>	<b>Percent Change 2000-2001</b>
Total	42,972	44,000	2.4
Goods-Producing Industries	8,686	8,280	-4.7
Mining & Construction	3,437	3,380	-1.7
Manufacturing	5,249	4,900	-6.6
Lumber & Wood Products	1,824	1,550	-15.0
All Other Manufacturing	3,426	3,350	-2.2
Service-Producing Industries	34,286	35,720	4.2
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	1,570	1,560	-0.6
Wholesale Trade	1,739	1,620	-6.8
Retail Trade	9,928	10,050	1.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,781	2,000	12.3
Services	11,417	12,230	7.1
Government Administration	4,525	4,680	3.4
Government Education	3,326	3,580	7.6

<b>Shoshone County</b> <b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b> <i>Average Monthly Employment</i>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Estimated 2001</b>	<b>Percent Change 2000-2001</b>
Total	4,710	4,320	-8.3
Goods-Producing Industries	1,327	1,030	-22.4
Mining & Construction	1,037	730	-29.6
Manufacturing	290	300	3.4
Lumber & Wood Products	110	110	0.0
All Other Manufacturing	180	190	5.6
Service-Producing Industries	3,382	3,290	-2.7
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	104	100	-3.8
Wholesale Trade	76	60	-21.1
Retail Trade	1,017	980	-3.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	90	80	-11.1
Services	905	950	5.0
Government Administration	757	710	-6.2
Government Education	433	410	-5.3

the addition of 1,030 jobs may sound good, it's important to remember that 1,700 residents joined the labor force in the same period. In addition, many Kootenai County residents who worked in Spokane County (Washington) lost their jobs when manufacturers, call centers, and other Spokane employers cut jobs this year. (Of the approximately 57,400 Kootenai County residents in the labor force, about 14 percent work in Spokane County.) As a result of job losses in Kootenai and Spo-

kane Counties, the unemployment rate for Kootenai County residents rose to 8.8 percent by December.

For 18 months, the U.S. manufacturing sector has been taking a beating, and Kootenai County's manufacturing sector is bruised. Between 2000 and 2001, Kootenai County's manufacturing sector fell 6.6 percent from 5,249 to 4,900 jobs. Logging, lumber mills, and other wood products lost about 270 jobs. Crown Pacific Partners closed its Coeur d'Alene mill this fall, putting 90 people out of work. Before layoffs began in the summer of 2000, more than 160 people worked there. A wide variety of manufacturing industries—including electronics, plastics, machine shops, furniture, and publishing—lost jobs during the last year.

Tourism turned in a lackluster performance in 2001. Lodging revenues were 2.4 percent lower this summer than in the summer of 2000. Despite the slowdown, Silverwood Theme Park near Athol hosted 360,000 visitors, setting a new attendance record. After the September 11 terrorist attacks, stalled air traffic prevented some conventions and fear of travel caused some cancellations of reservations. Lodging revenues this fall (September through November) were 15.9 percent lower than the previous fall. The U.S. recession also reduced business travel, leading to fewer bookings for the coming year. As a consequence, hotels were forced to reduce jobs—including permanent year-round jobs.

Low mortgage rates spurred residential construction in 2001 while commercial projects surged. Projects included the Riverstone development, the turbine plant in Rathdrum, additions to Kootenai Medical Center, the University of Idaho Research Park in Post Falls, the Burlington-Northern locomotive refueling depot near Rathdrum, and the renovation of downtown Rathdrum. The value of construction permits granted in Kootenai County, according to Wells Fargo's *Idaho Construction Report*, grew 16.3 percent from \$142.2 million in the first nine months of 2000 to \$165.4 million in the first nine months of 2001.

Call centers doubled their employment in Kootenai County to more than 2,000 by the end of 2001. Center Partners, which opened a call center in Coeur d'Alene in March, employed more than 1,000 people by the end of the year. Center Partners plans to add another 300 jobs in the next few months at a new building at Riverbend Commerce Park in Post Falls.

Kootenai County's success in recruiting new businesses is the envy of many other communities. Much of that success is owed to Jobs Plus, the county's economic development organization. In 2001, it helped bring Center Partners and several smaller businesses to Kootenai County. Jobs Plus is not resting on its laurels, and continues to court businesses that can bring more jobs to the county.

(continued on page 22)





# SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The Seaport area, which includes both Nez Perce County in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington, has been the economic engine in North Central Idaho. During 2001 employment was stagnant. The civilian labor force remained at the same level as the previous year. In looking at employment by industry, 430 jobs were lost in *Manufacturing* in 2001. Lay-offs occurred in almost all sectors of manufacturing including *Food Processing*, *Lumber & Wood Products*, *Paper & Allied Products*, and *Metal Fabrication*. For 2002, the market for *Lumber & Wood Products* and *Paper & Allied Products* should improve somewhat as the United States has increased tariffs on similar products produced in Canada. The tariffs are designed to level the playing field for competition; their government was heavily subsidizing the Canadian manufacturers.

The layoffs that have occurred in high wage manufacturing jobs will have a profound effect on reducing the amount of dollars in the general economy in 2002. The loss of *Manufacturing* payroll will produce a rippling affect of cutbacks across *Retail* and *Service* industries. Another problem has been that, between 1997 and the first half of 2001, a majority of the new jobs were created in the *Service* and *Trade* industries. Though these jobs reduced the unemployment rate, the jobs were usually part-time with no benefits and near the bottom of the wage ladder. Workers in these part time jobs were counted as employed even though they were looking for full-time opportunities. As a result, a large pool of underemployed workers was created. Underemployed workers are generally seeking full-time employment with benefits and wages above \$8.00 per hour. Counting these workers as employed reduces the unemployment rate but hides a growing problem.

Employment in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* for 2001 decreased 5.2 percent to 25,500. While growth in urban economies throughout the state has slowed, expansion of the economy of the Seaport area

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington	Projected 2001	2000	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	34,541	34,488	0.2
Unemployed	1,445	1,483	-2.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2%	4.3%	-0.1%
Total Employment	33,096	33,004	0.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	25,500	26,910	-5.2
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,820	5,400	-10.7
Construction & Mining	1,180	1,330	-11.3
Manufacturing	3,640	4,070	-10.6
Food & Kindred Products	90	150	-40.0
Lumber & Wood Products	590	770	-23.4
Paper & Allied Products	1,640	1,790	-8.4
All Other Manufacturing	1,320	1,360	-2.9
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	20,680	21,510	-3.9
Transportation	1,340	1,390	-3.6
Communication & Utilities	290	300	-3.3
Wholesale Trade	890	960	-7.3
Retail Trade	5,120	5,300	-3.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,610	1,670	-3.6
Services & Misc.	7,110	7,340	-3.1
Government Administration	1,910	2,070	-7.7
Government Education	2,410	2,480	-2.8

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

has stopped and is decreasing. As Seaport Table 1 shows, there were no increases in industry totals—all industries posted decreases for 2001. However, there was some good news. Although *Services* recorded decreases, jobs in the *Health Care* sector of *Services* are at record high levels. An expanding group of new health care professionals continue to move into the area.

Other economic bright spots for 2002 include the following:

- Activity continues at the Bedrock Plaza development, which will accommodate a new Home Depot and Safeway.
- The Regence Group announced plans to create at least 100 new jobs and will become the anchor tenant in Lewiston's new business and technology park.
- The new Idaho Juvenile Corrections Department's Lewiston Center, located on the city's southern edge, opened in the last half of 2001.

- The Nez Perce Tribe is betting the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration will bring more tourists to its casinos.
- A feasibility study and plans are being evaluated to give the Clearwater Casino, located near Lewiston, a facelift and a permanent building. Plans also call for a hotel, entertainment and convention center, food and beverage outlets, and a golf course.
- Spatial Dynamics, located at the Port of Wilma northwest of Clarkston, entered into a partnership with OB One Global Limited of Tukwila, Washington, to market People Portal II. The People Portal II is designed to prescreen airline passengers for nonmetal objects at a much faster rate than conventional airport detectors.
- Deranleau's, a long time business in Lewiston, is planning to build a new 18,000-square-foot store at 1901 Nineteenth Avenue across from the Lewiston Center Mall.
- Alliant Techsystems (ATK), a weapons and aerospace manufacturer, is buying the Sporting Equipment Group of Blount International. According to ATK, the company is committed to Blount's Lewiston manufacturing plant and believes the Lewiston plant is a key to the company's overall growth. Blount, one of the largest manufacturers in North Central Idaho, employs about 700 people in Lewiston where it makes sporting and law enforcement ammunition.

In *Agriculture*, cattle producers welcomed the news of a gradual upswing in the cattle market. However, wheat and other small grain growers are concerned with low prices for their products. *Agriculture* employment has dropped 30.7 percent since 1987. The Port of Lewiston, Idaho's only seaport, has played a major role in economic development. Because of concerns regarding endangered salmon runs, the future of the Port is in question. Nonetheless, the Port is a major economic player and could be a bright spot. New warehouses have been built in the Port to utilize road, rail, and water transportation.

### Clearwater County

Total employment in 2001 is forecast to decrease 2.2 percent in Clearwater County (see *Seaport Table 2*). Since 1996, employment growth has been fragile. Over the five-year span between 1996 and 2001 employment decreased 5.8 percent. Clearwater County has not shared in the state's prosperity. As employment was decreasing in Clearwater County, employment in the state expanded by over 9.0 percent. Clearwater County in 2001 had the highest unemployment rate among the 44 Idaho counties at 14.9 percent. Employment decreases reflect that business is suffering from cutbacks in two major employment industries, *Lumber & Wood Products* and the *Government* (primarily the U.S. Forest Service), causing concern for the county's economic future.

Clearwater County depends on natural resources to drive its economy. Employment in the two major indus-

Seaport Table 2: Labor Force & Employment by County

<b>Clearwater County</b>		<b>Estimated</b>		<b>Percent</b>
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>		<b>2000</b>		<b>Change</b>
			<b>2001</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	3,130	2,690		-14.1
Goods-Producing Industries	870	560		-35.6
Construction & Mining	120	100		-16.7
Manufacturing	750	460		-38.7
Service-Producing Industries	2,260	2,130		-5.8
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	100	70		-30.0
Trade	440	410		-6.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	70	60		-14.3
Services & Misc.	450	440		-2.2
Government	1,200	1,150		-4.2
<b>Idaho County</b>		<b>Estimated</b>		<b>Percent</b>
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>		<b>2000</b>		<b>Change</b>
			<b>2001</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	4,310	3,950		-8.4
Goods-Producing Industries	1,010	840		-16.8
Construction & Mining	370	240		-35.1
Manufacturing	650	600		-7.7
Service-Producing Industries	3,300	3,110		-5.8
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	200	180		-10.0
Trade	850	820		-3.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	120	110		-8.3
Services & Misc.	730	700		-4.1
Government	1,400	1,300		-7.1
<b>Latah County</b>		<b>Estimated</b>		<b>Percent</b>
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>		<b>2000</b>		<b>Change</b>
			<b>2001</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	14,530	14,150		-2.6
Goods-Producing Industries	1,130	1,000		-11.5
Construction & Mining	390	340		-12.8
Manufacturing	740	660		-10.8
Service-Producing Industries	13,400	13,150		-1.9
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	350	280		-20.0
Trade	3,550	3,540		-0.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	340	310		-8.8
Services & Misc.	2,580	2,450		-5.0
Government	6,580	6,570		-0.2
<b>Lewis County</b>		<b>Estimated</b>		<b>Percent</b>
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>		<b>2000</b>		<b>Change</b>
			<b>2001</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,120	1,050		-6.3
Goods-Producing Industries	160	140		-12.5
Construction & Mining	30	20		-33.3
Manufacturing	130	120		-7.7
Service-Producing Industries	960	910		-5.2
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	50	40		-20.0
Trade	330	320		-3.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	50	50		0.0
Services & Misc.	90	100		11.1
Government	440	400		-9.1

tries, *Government and Manufacturing*, especially in *Lumber & Wood Products*, has decreased 58 percent since 1980. Local sawmills in 2001 experienced wood shortages and a drop in wholesale prices for lumber and plywood. Potlatch Corporation's Jaype Plywood Mill in Pierce closed in 2000; since then other mills in the county have had to temporarily lay off workers. The rippling effect of the closure of Jaype is widening in Clearwater County.

The Orofino-based School District 171 is feeling the drain of students leaving as their families move elsewhere to look for jobs. Because employment has decreased, local groups are trying to diversify the local economy. Nearly \$2 million in federal and state grants have been acquired to develop a light manufacturing industrial site in Orofino. The grants will cover the development, land costs, and construction of a 30,000-square-foot building. An expanding local company, Architectural Sign and Engraving, will be the anchor for the new building and will occupy about half of the space. The other half of the building will provide space to encourage local business to expand, or outside companies to move to the county. A waiting list of companies interested in the space is being developed.

Other county developments include:

- Communities located along the trail used by the Lewis-Clark expedition are getting ready to celebrate the expedition's bicentennial in 2003-06. The Pink House Hole, an 18-unit public campground situated three miles west of Orofino on U.S. Highway 12, is one of the first of many planned campgrounds to be completed. The Pink House Hole campground will provide full hook-ups for 15 RV's, three tent campsites, and two picnic area pavilions. The campground is half a mile from Canoe Camp where the Lewis-Clark party stopped to make dugout canoes for their trip downriver to the Pacific Ocean. Over two million people are expected to tour North Central Idaho for the bicentennial.
- Two new businesses opened in Orofino—a Subway restaurant and LightForce, a business that specializes in riflescopes for police/military and lighting fixtures for four-wheel drive vehicles.
- For 2002, in addition to layoffs in *Lumber & Wood Products*, two other developments are cause for concern. The first is the resolution of the salmon issue and how it will impact tourism and the Dworshak Dam. The Dworshak Reservoir and the Clearwater River provide recreational activities for residents and tourists. The second is the continuing cutbacks in U.S. Forest Service permanent and seasonal staff for the Clearwater National Forest.

### Idaho County

Unemployment for Idaho County is forecasted to be one of the highest for the county at 9.4 percent in 2001. (See Table 2 on page 10.) The county's economy has lost almost 300 jobs from the 1994 record of 5,941. The 1996

closure of a major sawmill in Grangeville was expected to decrease employment even more. But other employment sectors in *Retail Trade* and *Service* industries created new jobs in spite of the closure—an indicator of a diversifying economy. In addition to losses in lumber, jobs in *Government* decreased because of cutbacks at the U.S. Forest Service. Another important employment industry that has decreased, *Agriculture*, is just one-third of what it was 20 years ago.

As in Clearwater County the economy in Idaho County is heavily dependent on natural resources. *Lumber & Wood Products* employment is a large part of the labor force (12 percent). After years of decline, the number of jobs in *Lumber & Wood Products* continued to decrease in 2001. In addition, temporary layoffs occurred in most area sawmills in the last half of 2000 and 2001. Layoffs lasted between one and four weeks. On the plus side, *Industrial Machining* continues to be a strong sector. Local machining companies in the Grangeville and Cottonwood areas have gained national attention and are receiving orders from all over the country.

Other industry news includes:

- Whitewater and rafting guides on the Lochsa, Snake, and Salmon Rivers say that business increased in 2000 and the first half of 2001. This was due in large part to an increased salmon run, which in turn increased the number of jobs in recreation and tourism.
- Construction of several new buildings in Grangeville was completed in 2001 including a new U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center, a new home for the Idaho County Free Press, and a building for the new Kings store.
- In response to the extensive wildfires throughout the west in summer 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Service hired a team of biologists to work with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to implement the National Fire Plan. One site funded by the plan was located in Grangeville which increased jobs in *Government*.

Other county developments include:

- St. Mary's Hospital in Cottonwood will be constructing a new 12,000-square-foot, two-story clinic building that will house 12 new exam rooms, physician offices, procedure room, reception area, and clinic business offices.
- A salvage deal was reached with a Montana company for the ties and rails of the approximately 67-mile Camas Prairie RailNet (CPR) line between Spalding and Grangeville. Klamert Railroad Salvage Company of Silesia, Montana, will conduct the contract salvage for an undisclosed amount. Work is pending while it is determined if CPR meets the requirements set up by the Surface Transportation Board in its decision in 2000 when it approved abandonment of the line. The bridges and trestles are not a part of this salvage deal.

## Latah County

In 2001, employment decreased 3.7 percent in Latah County (See Table 2 on page 10.) Total employment decreased 10 percent since 1996, and is now 10 percent below the record level of 15,700. Employment peaked in 1995 because of growth in *Trade and Services*. Even with employment decreases, Latah County has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Idaho. The University of Idaho (U of I), established in 1889, employs more than 40 percent of all workers in Latah County. The U of I's presence provides economic stability and insulates the county from national economic cycles. A significant economic indicator for Latah County is the size of the student population at the U of I. In the first half of 2001, student enrollment increased and is expected to increase through the year 2002. As a result, employment at the U of I is expected to increase one percent in the next two years.

In other industries, employment should increase in *Manufacturing*, *Trade*, and *Services*. Future employment increases in *Manufacturing* will occur because computer software and hardware companies that are currently in the U of I business incubator will be expanding and leaving the incubator for larger facilities. (Note: Business incubators are designed to help young businesses survive during their initial start up by providing business assistance and services such as shared receptionist, fax, copier, conference room, and low-cost space.) Employment in *Trade and Services* will follow increases in the student population at the U of I. Whenever the student population increases so does the demand for workers in *Trade and Services*.

*Construction* is a significant employment indicator of economic health in Latah County. According to builders and planners in the county, both residential and industrial construction is expected to increase in 2002.

Other developments include:

- A British Columbia-based mining company is looking to develop an open-pit kaolin clay mine on state land in the Helmer-Bovill area.
- Officials at Bennett Lumber have warned employees that large electric rate increases could force a suspension of work at mills in Princeton and Clarkston. Because of the proximity to the Princeton mill, the communities of Potlatch and Harvard would be hit hard economically by the suspension of the area's largest employer.
- Construction was completed on the Moscow Ice Rink.
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc. (SEL) will be expanding its Pullman plant by 60 percent in 2002. It will create a total of 200,000-square feet of building space at the Port of Whitman County Industrial Park on the north edge of Pullman. The 40,000-square-foot addition will be added to the current manufacturing building, which covers 65,000-square feet. In just a year, the company has outgrown the plant. The company is Pullman's/Moscow's biggest success story and second largest employer after Washington State

University. It manufactures industrial electrical relays and operates 39 customer service offices from Charlotte, North Carolina, to Bolivia.

- In other technical manufacturing news, Pacific Simulation of Moscow expects to more than triple its workforce to about 160 employees following the announcement that the company was purchased by international conglomerate Invensys. Invensys is a holding company of one of the largest corporations that develop systems for industrial automations and control. Pacific Simulation will retain its name and expand at its Moscow location.
- In *Health Care*, Gritman Medical Center in Moscow is planning to add a \$20 million south wing. The new wing would increase hospital bed space, the number of operating rooms, and emergency room space.

## Lewis County

Employment in Lewis County did increase in 2001, but by only a few jobs (58). (See Table 2 on page 10.) The number of jobs in *Construction* continued to be strong, stimulating the economy in the first half of 2001. Construction increased because low land prices allowed people to build houses in Lewis County and commute to work in Lewiston. Three industries, *Agriculture*, *Lumber & Wood Products*, and *Government* dominate Lewis County's economy. Public lands within the county provide recreational opportunities, which help to diversify the economy. *Agriculture* in 2001 continued its decline. Since 1980, jobs in agriculture have decreased by one third. Wheat prices, at an all time low, are bleak news for an already depressed industry. In *Lumber & Wood Products*, mills in the county have had to temporarily lay off workers because of low wholesale prices and maintenance concerns. However, all of the mills did regain strength by the end of 2001.

Some of the developments in 2001 were:

- The new Kamiah Physical Therapy Clinic opened for business. The clinic is administered by St. Mary's Hospital (Cottonwood) Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Department.
- Jacobs Auto Parts opened a new auto parts business in Kamiah.
- The It'se Ye Ye Bingo and Casino in Kamiah completed a \$1 million renovation.

---

Doug Tweedy, Regional Labor Economist  
1158 Idaho Street, Lewiston, ID 83501  
(208) 799-5000 ext. 307  
E-mail: dtweedy@labor.state.id.us



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for 2001 was 3.7 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This is three-tenths of a percentage point above the 2000 annual average rate of 3.4 percent. The number of employed persons increased by 10,960, or 4.8 percent, from 2000 and the number of unemployed individuals increased by 1,154, or 14.4 percent, year-over-year. The combination of the increasing number of employed and the increasing number of unemployed led to an increase of 12,114 individuals, or 5.1 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from 2000 to 2001. *Civilian Labor Force* data for all counties are located at the end of the newsletter in the FYI section, starting on page 35.

Year-over-year, the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 2,268 or 1.0 percent. *Goods-Producing Industries* accounted for only 30.5 percent of those jobs with an annual average increase of 691 jobs. Job increases were noted in *Construction & Mining* with an increase of 916 jobs, *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* increased by 701 jobs, and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products Manufacturing* and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* increased by 22 and 10 jobs year-over-year, respectively. *Goods-Producing Industries* that experienced job losses year-over-year included *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes Manufacturing* and *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing*, losing 186 and 133 jobs, respectively; *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* lost 62 jobs, *Industrial & Communications Machinery & Computer Equipment* lost 287 jobs, *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* lost 166 jobs, *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* lost 57 jobs, and *Food & Kindred Products* lost 90 jobs year-over-year, with *Canned Cured & Frozen Foods Manufacturing* losing 111 jobs in 2001.

Of all new jobs created in 2001, 69.5 percent occurred in *Service-Producing In-*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Boise MSA, Ada and Canyon Counties	Projected 2001	2000	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
<b>Unadjusted</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	248,392	236,278	5.1
Unemployment	9,168	8,015	14.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.4	
Total Employment	239,224	228,264	4.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	231,151	228,883	1.0
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	54,055	53,363	1.3
<b>Mining &amp; Construction</b>	17,097	16,181	5.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	36,958	37,183	-0.6
Durable Goods	28,537	28,704	-0.6
Lumber & Wood Products	3,143	3,442	-8.7
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	790	976	-19.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,353	2,466	-4.6
Fabricated Metal Products	1,196	1,258	-4.9
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,796	8,083	-3.6
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	12,788	12,087	5.8
Transportation Equipment	1,778	1,941	-8.4
Other Durable Goods	1,836	1,893	-3.0
Nondurable Goods	8,421	8,479	-0.7
Food Products	5,588	5,678	-1.6
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,656	1,767	-6.3
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,952	1,930	1.2
Other Nondurable Goods	881	871	1.2
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	177,096	175,520	0.9
<b>Trans, Comm, &amp; Public Util</b>	12,347	11,823	4.4
Transportation	6,889	6,519	5.7
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,457	5,304	2.9
<b>Trade</b>	56,961	55,397	2.8
Wholesale Trade	13,193	13,371	-1.3
Durable Goods	8,038	8,050	-0.2
Nondurable Goods	5,155	5,321	-3.1
Retail Trade	43,768	42,026	4.1
General Merchandise Stores	5,872	4,911	19.6
Foods Stores	7,506	7,805	-3.8
Eating & Drinking Places	15,401	14,814	4.0
Other Retail Trade	14,990	14,496	3.4
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>	11,223	11,200	0.2
<b>Services</b>	61,516	63,900	-3.7
Business Services	14,887	15,548	-4.3
Health Services	18,203	16,577	9.8
Hospitals	8,508	7,474	13.8
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,897	4,507	8.7
Other Services	23,528	27,267	-13.7
<b>Government</b>	35,049	33,201	5.6
Federal Government	5,581	5,157	8.2
State Government	12,830	12,130	5.8
Education	4,141	3,668	12.9
Administration	8,689	8,462	2.7
Local Government	16,638	15,913	4.6
Education	10,815	10,425	3.7
Administration	5,823	5,488	6.1

\* Preliminary Estimate, includes December 1999-November 2000 figures.

\*\*Estimates include all full- or part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

dustries. These industries created 1,576 new jobs from 2000 to 2001 with *Transportation Services and Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* increasing 371 and 153 jobs, respectively. *Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* both lost 12 and 165 jobs from 2000 to 2001. Overall, *Retail Trade* gained 1,742 jobs year-over-year, with job gains in *General Merchandise Stores* (961), *Eating & Drinking Places* (586), and *Other Retail Trade* (494) outpacing job losses in *Food Stores* (-299), creating a net increase in the number of jobs. *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* gained only 24 jobs in 2001. *Services* lost 2,384 jobs over the year with job losses in *Other Services* (-3,739) and *Business Services* (-661) outpacing job gains in *Health Services* (1,626) and *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* to create a net job loss over the year. All aspects of *Government* experienced job gains over the year with *Federal Government* increasing 423 jobs. *State Government* gained 473 jobs in *Education* and 227 jobs in *Administration*, and *Local Government* gained 390 jobs in *Education* and 335 jobs in *Administration* year-over-year.

## SPECIAL TOPICS

### Construction in 2001

Treasure Valley Table 2 and Treasure Valley Figure 1 show the nine-month cumulative comparison of new dwelling units and total permits for southwest Idaho in 2000 and 2001. The city of Boise showed the largest number of new dwellings built in 2001 with 1,511 units, including 642 single-family dwelling units and 871 multi-family dwelling units. This is an increase of 64.2 percent from 2000 when, for the same time period, a total of 920 dwelling units were built in Boise, including 748 single-family dwellings and 172 multi-family dwelling units. Weiser and Payette had the largest percentage gains in residential units year-over-year with 150.0 percent and 132.0 percent, respectively. The areas that experienced a decrease in construction year-over-year were Nampa, Emmett, Mountain Home, and Valley County with decreases of 13.2 percent, 4.2 percent, 15.7 percent, and 3.8 percent, respectively.

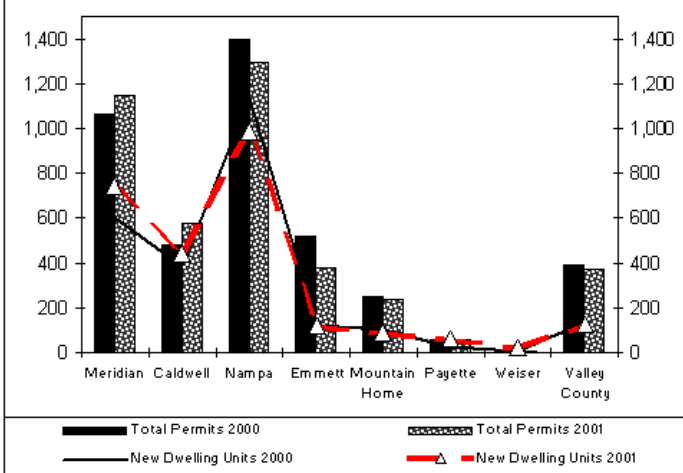
Table 2 also shows the total number of construction permits allowed in southwest Idaho from January through September 2000 and 2001. The city of Boise had the largest number of permits approved with 12,060 permits approved in 2001. This is a decrease of 976 permits or 7.5 percent year-over-year. Other areas that experienced a decrease in approved building permits included Nampa, Emmett, Mountain Home, Payette, Weiser, and Valley County with decreases of 7.4 percent, 27.6 percent, 5.2 percent, 8.1 percent, 26.7 percent, and 6.6 percent, respectively. Meridian and Caldwell were the only areas to experience gains in approved permits year-over-year with Meridian increasing 7.9 percent or 84 permits and Caldwell increasing 18.8 percent or 90 permits over the same period in 2000. The construction per-

Treasure Valley Table 2:  
Southwest Idaho Construction Update--9 Month Cumulative

New Dwelling Units	2000	2001	change	% change
Boise	920	1,511	591	64.2%
Meridian	600	739	139	23.2%
Caldwell	379	439	60	15.8%
Nampa	1,133	983	-150	-13.2%
Emmett	120	115	-5	-4.2%
Mountain Home	102	86	-16	-15.7%
Payette	25	58	33	132.0%
Weiser	10	25	15	150.0%
Valley County	132	127	-5	-3.8%
Total Permits	2000	2001	change	% change
Boise	13,036	12,060	-976	-7.5%
Meridian	1,062	1,146	84	7.9%
Caldwell	480	570	90	18.8%
Nampa	1,396	1,292	-104	-7.4%
Emmett	515	373	-142	-27.6%
Mountain Home	251	238	-13	-5.2%
Payette	62	57	-5	-8.1%
Weiser	15	11	-4	-26.7%
Valley County	393	367	-26	-6.6%

Construction statistics originated in Wells Fargo's Idaho Construction Report Volume 48 Number 9.

Treasure Valley Figure 1: Southwest Idaho Construction Update — 9 months cumulative (2000 & 2001), excluding Boise



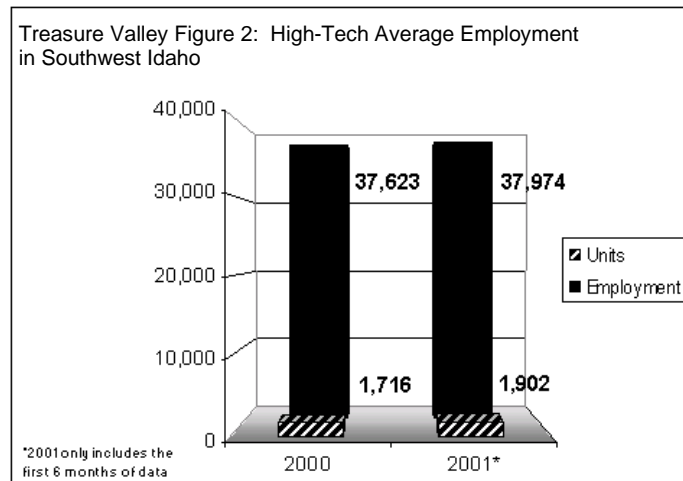
mits accounted for new residential, new nonresidential, and additions, alterations, and repairs of existing buildings.

### High Tech in 2001

In 2001 there were a number of layoffs publicized in the Treasure Valley. Treasure Valley Figure 2 (page 15) shows the change in number of establishments and employment in all high-tech industries in Southwest Idaho. This figure indicates an increase in the number of jobs in the High-Tech sector of the Treasure Valley; however,



the 2001 figure is based only on the first six months of 2001. Several events occurred in the high-tech sector, specifically the electronics industry in the six months that followed. Overall, more than 3,000 jobs were lost in the electronics industry in the Treasure Valley in 2001. The following companies had permanent layoffs at some time during the year: Micronpc.com, MCMS, Hewlett-Packard, Extended Systems, Jabil Circuit, Inc., ZiLOG, SCP Global Technologies, and Pix Tech.



Hewlett-Packard (HP) sold its VeriFone part of the business to Gores Technology; the sale allowed HP to focus on core competencies. HP started a \$6.25 million building/remodeling project in June that expanded HP's inkjet cartridge manufacturing business. HP and Compaq announced a \$20.3 billion merger in early September that would create a giant manufacturer of personal computers, computer servers, printers, and high-tech services; several investors and analysts have expressed skepticism about the merger, and regulatory and shareholder approval has not been made. HP also purchased the outstanding shares of Indigo, a Dutch industrial and commercial printing system company, for \$629 million. New products that were released to the public in 2001 include the Open-View software suite that helps customers with their e-services, the Netaction software suite that allows customers to develop, integrate, and launch their e-service businesses; the HP Digital Press 6600, and the HP LaserJet 1000.

Micronpc.com and Intel were working together in early 2001 to create a new line of networking solutions that combines Micron's TransPort line of notebook computers and Intel's high-performance wireless LAN products to deliver tailored solutions to each business. The company was purchased by the Gores Technology Group in mid-2001; it posted its first profit in two years for third quarter 2001. The company launched the NetFRAME server product line that is focused for business and government users. MicronPC closed its Meridian call center and moved those employees to its Nampa

manufacturing site; the consolidation will save the company money.

Micron Electronics and Interland (its web-hosting partner) shareholders approved a merger between the two companies in August, which led to Micron Electronics' name change to Interland, and the company headquarters was moved from Nampa to Atlanta, Georgia. The new company focuses solely on web hosting and related Internet services.

MCMS was awarded a \$49 million "debtor-in-possession" financial package by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in October that allows MCMS to continue day-to-day operations during the bankruptcy proceedings as well as provides approved bidding procedures for the sale of MCMS assets. The company also announced plans to sell its Nampa plant to a Massachusetts electronics manufacturing services company—Manufacturers' Services Limited. A federal bankruptcy court approved the sale of MCMS to a Wisconsin company, Plexus, who paid MCMS \$45 million and acquired most of MCMS' assets including the Nampa location; proceeds from the sale were used to pay creditors' claims in MCMS' Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. The sale closed in January 2002.

Micron Technology was chosen by Microsoft to provide memory chips for its new "XBOX" video game console. The company also introduced a new low power memory solution that will extend battery life in many mobile and wireless applications; the new BATRAMs are designed to consume less power than the SDRAMs. Micron Technology and DuPont Photomasks started construction on a 90,000-square-foot, \$150 million facility in Boise that will manufacture photomasks. Micron opened a \$200 million research and development facility in November, which is one of the most technologically advanced, state-of-the-art plants in the world. Micron Technology and Hynix Semiconductor released information in early December that a merger between the two companies was possible. If the merger occurs, the resulting company would be the world's largest memory maker, providing about half of the semiconductor memory demands in the industry. In late December, Micron announced plans to buy Toshiba Corporation's DRAM business, Dominion; if the acquisition is approved, the purchase would make Micron the undisputed world leader in producing DRAM memory chips. The news was received with positive reviews from analysts and industry spokespersons.

Extended Systems licensed its Bluetooth and Infrared Data Association software-development kits to HP and NEC, which makes nearly 85 companies that are now licensed by Extended Systems to use the Bluetooth technology. In mid-May, the company made a joint announcement with Palm, Inc. that terminated the acquisition of Extended Systems by Palm; worsening economic conditions in the industry was cited as one of the rea-



sons for the failed acquisition. Extended Systems sold its printing business to Troy Group, Inc. of Irvine, CA.

ZiLOG announced the restructuring of its company in late 2000, laying off 11 employees at the Nampa plant in early 2001. The company announced plans to sell the Nampa fabrication plant in late May. ZiLOG consolidated its two Nampa fabrication plants and test operations, which led to layoffs at the company and is part of the company's strategy to reduce its worldwide workforce by 14 percent by the end of 2001.

Knosys, Inc. changed its name to ProClarity Corporation in mid-2001. The ProClarity software product line, introduced in January 1999, helps companies analyze business data that are collected and added to databases, allowing decision-makers to see trends, patterns, and exceptions in large groups of data.

Cypress Semiconductor Corporation acquired Boise-based In-System Design for \$45 million in October.

Preco Electronics announced a \$10 million contract with Symbol Technologies in early January 2001. Preco sent approximately 12,000 mobile computing system units to the New York company, which used the units inside maintenance and service vehicles throughout North America.

SCP Global Technologies completed its major expansion project in mid-2001, which included the addition of a new customer demonstration lab and an expansion of its manufacturing and training facilities.

PixTech, a local small display panel manufacturer, closed its Boise operations in August. The company employed 68 people at the 73,000-square-foot plant located near Broadway Avenue and Federal Way; all of the employees will be laid off.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise City MSA

- The American Electronics Association (AeA) and the Nasdaq Stock Market ranked the Boise City MSA second in "high-tech job growth in a small city" from 1993 to 1998 in a report released in early 2001. Of every 1,000 private sector workers in the area, high-tech firms employ 112 of them. The area also ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in percentage of high-tech workers per 1,000 jobs, 12<sup>th</sup> in high-tech job growth among U.S. cities of all sizes, 26<sup>th</sup> in households with a computer (59 percent), and 26<sup>th</sup> in household access to the Internet (47 percent).
- For the second consecutive year, Forbes Magazine ranked the Boise City MSA as one of the 10 best places to do business and advance a career in America. The Boise City MSA ranked seventh in 2001, compared to fifth in 2000. The magazine ranks 200 metropolitan regions by eight business categories including wage and salary growth, job growth, and high-tech clustering.

- Boise State University, the Boise Metro Economic Development Council (BMEDC), and a consortium of call center managers throughout the Treasure Valley have announced a joint venture in creating a course at BSU to train call center workers. This group hopes that the course may reduce the amount of turnover in the call center industry, which is estimated to be at least 25 percent. Nearly 8,000 people in the Treasure Valley work in a call center environment. The four-week session will introduce students to call center basics that will include tours of various call centers, guest speakers, and simulations. Cost for the basic class is \$99. More advanced classes also may be made available.
- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center opened its 24-hour emergency room service and full-service hospital in 2001. The expanded facility at 520 South Eagle Road includes an obstetrics ward and surgery rooms along with 62 beds. The number of beds is expected to increase to 146 upon completion of the fifth and sixth floors. St. Luke's Meridian will serve patients who live in west Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Kuna, and even Canyon County. Because Meridian's population more than tripled in the 1990s, demand for expanded services at the location occurred more quickly than originally expected by hospital administrators. St. Luke's is already planning to build a second hospital building at the site. St. Luke's Regional Medical Center (SLRMC) in Boise, announced plans to build a 940-space, five-level parking garage, and a three to four story medical office building south of Warm Springs Avenue, west of Broadway Avenue in Boise. The project is scheduled to start in late 2002 or early 2003. West Valley Medical Center and St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center opened the Caldwell Cancer Treatment Center as a joint venture in Caldwell in February 2001. The Caldwell Cancer Treatment Center is located on Commercial Way and offers the most technologically advanced radiation treatment in the state. There is a staff of fifteen and patients will be treated mostly on an outpatient basis.
- In addition to the layoffs that Boise Cascade had in Emmett and Cascade in 2001, the company announced the rebranding of its name in early October. The company will retain its full name for legal activities, including financial trading, but will adopt "Boise" for its products and marketing materials. The company stated that the change would have a visual presentation that does a better job of telling what the company is and what it does. The company is very diversified, and the office products and building materials distribution divisions account for more than half of the company's total sales. The name changeover will not be completed until spring 2002. The company also started construction of a \$65

million wood-plastic composite manufacturing plant in Elma, Washington. Construction started in April and will be completed by May 2002.

- Albertson's Inc. announced Larry Johnston as its new chairman and chief executive officer in May. In August, the company cut many white-collar jobs at the Boise headquarters and throughout the nation. The job cuts are part of reorganization plans that were announced by the company in July. This reorganization plan included closing 165 stores, cutting between 15 and 20 percent of its managerial and administrative jobs above store level, and consolidating the six regional offices into two; these changes could cut annual expenses by \$250 million. The company closed two of its corporate Sav-On stores in the Treasure Valley; one located on Bogus Basin Road and the other on Chinden Boulevard. Albertson's opened a new 58,000-square-foot store on Vista Avenue and Overland Road in December that offers expanded services and a substation for the Boise Police Department. The store replaces an older, smaller store on the same site that was demolished.
- Washington Group International (WGI) filed for bankruptcy in May 2001, which was the company's second bankruptcy filing in five years. Company officials hoped that by seeking Chapter 11 protection, the company could make a debt-to-equity swap to stay in business. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Reno, Nevada, approved WGI's bankruptcy reorganization plan; stock will be divided between lenders and unsecured creditors, while former shareholders will receive nothing. Financing was finalized in December. WGI also announced that it laid off 30 employees in Boise as part of its efforts to eliminate 8,000 jobs worldwide. The company now has about 30,000 employees worldwide and about 600 locally.
- Restaurants that opened in the Boise area in 2001 include River Rock Alehouse, Louie's Pizza and Italian Restaurant in Meridian, Smoky Mountain Pizza and Pasta in Meridian, Mackenzie River Pizza, Arby's, Panda Express, Applebee's, International House of Pancakes (IHOP) in the Crossroads shopping plaza in Meridian, Sonic Drive-In (with two more stores planned for the Boise area, and one more in Garden City). Pizza Hut announced four new stores in the area (Boise, Kuna, Star, and Meridian). In downtown Boise, the following restaurants opened in 2001: Tuscany, the Dublin Up, the Manhattan Grill, Schott's Steaks & Chops, BarTime, M's Wine/Martini Bar, Banja Luka, Thai Cuisine, Conundrum, Zutto (moved from 8<sup>th</sup> and Idaho to a larger venue on Main Street), Addie's Place (replaced the Teriyaki Palace on 5<sup>th</sup> and Main), Ha' Penny Bridge, Happy Fish Sushi & Martini Bar (near the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Marketplace). Port of Subs and Cold Stone Creamery opened in the Family Center off of Federal Way; Jack in the Box opened a franchise in the Five Mile Plaza.
- Other businesses that opened in Boise in 2001 include US Drug Lab, Inc., Western Power Sports, De-Marcos, Les Schwab, Rent-A-Center, Fred Meyer, the Affordable Pet Clinic, Hairmasters, World Lighting, and Edward Jones. Alaska Airlines opened a call center in Boise; CJ Banks, Pro Image, and Coldwater Creek opened outlets in the Boise Towne Square Mall; Decibel Products, an Allen Telecom company, opened a customer service center in Boise. Also opening in Boise in 2001 were State Cellular, Aaron Brother's Art Mart, American Geotechnics, Inc., Tait & Associates, Syringa Networks, American Auto Wholesale & Starr Tooling (which moved from Canyon County to Boise), Diamond Development Center, Ashton's Framing & Fine Art, MelloDee's Child Center, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Crosstie Productions, and Europe Delicious Bakery & Grocery. Fred Meyer, Starbucks, and Washington Mutual opened new stores in the Franklin Shopping Center.
- Businesses that moved or expanded in 2001 include Hummel Architects, PA, which built a new two-story building on Bogus Basin Road in Boise; the Idanha Hotel, which finished its makeover project that included remodeling the entire first floor and changing the hotel to apartments; the Furniture Outlet Superstore moved into the old Fred Meyer building at Orchard and Franklin Roads in Boise; Western Electronics moved to its new \$4.7 million, 100,000-square-foot building in Meridian, along with DBSI Realty Corporation; George's Cycles & Fitness closed its store on Broadway and opened a new store on Front Street; Desert Sage Restaurant moved from its downtown Boise location to Park Center; Red Lobster closed its restaurant on Broadway and opened a new one near Boise Towne Square; the Collister Shopping Center underwent a facelift—Koppel's Browzeville moved to the shopping center; and United Heritage Mutual life Insurance Company moved its headquarters from Nampa to Meridian.
- Several businesses made announcements of future moves and/or expansions including Goldy's Breakfast Bistro is opening a restaurant in Hyde Park, Eagle Nursery announced plans to move to the northeast corner of State and Park Lane, SWIRE Coca-Cola announced a 55,000-square-foot addition to its current facility in Meridian, construction started on the Boise Airport Expansion Project, the Idaho Statehouse is partway through a renovation project, and the long-anticipated Boise Tower broke ground in downtown Boise in 2001. Other businesses that an-

nounced openings in 2002 include DL Evans Bank, Radioshack, and Jack in the Box. Hilton Garden Inn planned a 150-room hotel in Eagle; the project will start in April 2002 and be completed by January 2003.

- The following businesses opened in Meridian in 2001: Songbird Espresso; Pintura Hair & Nail Salon; Mountain West Bank; Wal-Mart, which opened a supercenter in the Crossroads shopping plaza; Perfect Image Beauty Supply and Gifts; Summers Funeral Home; Syringa Bank; Meridian Cycle and Accessories; Rachel's Place; Mountain West Bank; B&E Beauty Supply & Tanning. The Five-Mile Creek Pathway—a path for walkers, runners, bicyclists, and rollerbladers—opened to the public, and the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) moved from downtown Boise to a new office in Meridian.
- Business activity in Eagle in 2001 included the openings of First American Title Company and Eagle Vacuum & Home Décor; the Eagle Historical Museum opened in the old library; Washington Federal Saving & Loan moved to a new building in October; Cassidy Plaza, a \$1 million office building facility, opened in Eagle; the Eagle United Methodist Church expansion project was completed in 2001; Pioneer Federal Credit Union announced the opening of a branch in Eagle in 2002; and Mike and Joy Kauffman announced plans for "The Winery at Eagle Knoll," which is scheduled to open in Summer 2002.
- Business happenings in other areas of Ada County include the opening of the Firehouse Diner in Kuna and the opening of Mira Plaza, a shopping center on the corner of State Street and Mira in Star. Businesses that opened in the plaza include Pizza Hut and the Lucky Star Coffee Shop.
- Business closings that occurred in Ada County include Wells Fargo, which closed 10 branches as a result of the First-Security/Wells Fargo merger; Home Base, Burger n' Brew on Broadway (in early 2001, a Buddy's restaurant was announced to take over the space, but no further information has been announced); the Sandpiper Restaurant (Tuscany restaurant was opened in its place); Noodles closed downtown (the Dublin Up opened in its place); Roper's closed its store in downtown Boise (DeMarco's moved in); Faust; Michael Fisher Jewelers; McClure's Machine Shop; Office Depot in the Capital Village shopping center near Capitol Boulevard and University Drive; and Doughty's Bistro. The IMAX Theater closed in the Edwards Theater Complex in Boise, and Loew's Cineplex Odeon closed its theaters in the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Marketplace, Northgate, Towne Square, and Nampa. The Nampa theater was purchased by the Reel Theaters and

Northgate is now open as a discount theater; the other two theaters remain closed.

- Quality Properties Development opened a new office building on the corner of Garrity and Flamingo in Nampa. The North Ridge Professional Center is an office building for several businesses. The site also includes a Phillips 66 convenience store and a McDonalds restaurant.
- The Karcher Mall renovation and expansion project was completed in 2001. The main entrance, center court, hallway, ceiling, floors, parking lot, and other entrances were renovated in the project. Several new stores opened in and near Karcher Mall in 2001 including Ross Dress for Less, Bath & Body Works, Musicland, U.S. Factory Outlets, Mrs. Fields' Cookies, and BC&T Prints. JoAnn Fabrics moved to a larger store in the mall, Pic n' Save changed its name to Big Lots, and the Nampa Police Department opened a substation in the Edwards Theater Complex near Karcher Mall in Nampa. Announcements were made earlier in the year regarding plans to open an Olive Garden and a Golden Corral in the vicinity, but no additional information has been available.
- Other business happenings in Nampa in 2001 include the openings of Karcher AutoParts, Maverick on the corner of Franklin and Karcher, Zamzows' second Nampa location, Idaho Camera, NAPA Auto Parts, Mr. Dollar, Studio III, Horizon Paint, Vintage Floral, Treasure Valley Mortgage Consulting, Summit Mortgage Corporation, and a Washington Trust Bank branch. DJ Wholesale Framers Supply opened 16,000-square feet of warehouse space, Leavitt & Associates Engineers opened an office, Intermountain Community Bancorp opened a financial business center, and Harvest Classic moved to a new bakery facility in Nampa. The MicronPC outlet moved to Nampa from Boise. The Warhawk Air Museum opened at its new location at the Nampa Municipal Airport in 2001.
- West Valley Centre, a 40,000-square-foot retail shopping center between Nampa and Caldwell, has finished construction. Sears moved from Karcher Mall to this location. Several other stores will be opening in the shopping center in the near future.
- Business happenings in Caldwell in the past year include the opening of several new businesses including KFC, A&W, Family Mortgage of Idaho, Soshea's Café, Hertz Car Sales, Wells Fargo, Clinica Santa Maria, Walgreen, Northwest Staffing Resources, and Fiesta Guadalajara. Orphan Annie's reopened after a fire destroyed much of the building in 2000. Businesses that moved included: Pet Haven Thrift Store, which moved to 619 Main Street in Caldwell; the Canyon County Sheriff and Police Departments, which moved to a new building in Cald-

well; and the Western Canyon Youth Center, which moved to a new location in Caldwell. The Armadillo Bar-B-Q & Steakhouse opened another restaurant in Middleton.

- Acquisitions and mergers that occurred in Canyon County in 2001 included Canandaigua Wine Co., Inc., which acquired Ste. Chapelle Winery in a \$52 million deal with Corus Brands, Inc. The new company will allow Ste. Chapelle to build more brand awareness throughout the northwestern region of the United States. Environmental Oil of Nampa acquired Artesian Oil Recovery, Inc., and Lithia Motors purchased Lanny Berg Chevrolet in Caldwell for \$1.7 million.
- The Premier Building, the first commercial building at Canyon Park near the Idaho Center, opened its doors in late 2000. The building is located at 5700 East Franklin Road and was developed as a one-stop financial destination point. Premier Alliance and the law firm of White, Peterson, Pruss, Morrow, and Gigray are the major tenants of the building. Other businesses located in the building are Premier Alliance Property and Casualty, Premier Alliance Health Insurance, Troy Peltzer and Associates, attorney John Bujak, Impact Technology, CPA Dave Vauk, Rowe and Associates, Title One, and a real estate company. Plans for the second phase of construction at Canyon Park were announced in early spring 2001. The new building will be 26,000-square feet and will be designed to look similar to the Premier Building in that it is meant to be a one-stop center for professional services; it will be located on the east side of the Premier Building. Construction began in late spring 2001.
- Construction projects that started and/or completed in Canyon County include the homeless shelter in Nampa, which started in July 2001, and the 7,000-square-foot expansion of Paul's Market in Caldwell. The Canyon County Animal Shelter was constructed and the animals were moved to the new building, which is located on Graye Lane in Caldwell. The Nampa Municipal Airport began its expansion project. The Idaho State School and Hospital started its \$9 million expansion and renovation project. Nampa First Church of Nazarene completed its 57,000-square-foot expansion of the Family Live Center in Nampa, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints opened a church in Nampa.
- Businesses that closed in Canyon County in 2001 include the JC Penney Catalog Service Center, Hehr International, Intermountain Outdoor Sports in Karcher Mall, the Plum Tree Restaurant and Furniture Store, and Broadway Market—a grocery store in Melba. Loews Cineplex Odeon in Nampa closed but was purchased by the Reel Theaters and re-

opened later; First Security Bank in Nampa closed but reopened as a Mountain West Bank branch.

#### **Adams County**

- The New Meadows United Methodist Church is host to a food bank that opened in Summer 2001. Seven local businesses helped collect anonymous cash donations to pay for the food, which was collected during March and April. The food bank is affiliated with the Idaho Foodbank Warehouse, Inc.
- Idaho Power permanently closed its Cambridge operations center in Summer 2001. The construction crew moved to Boise, and there are still two line personnel available to respond to outages and emergencies.
- The Adams County Courthouse Restoration Committee received \$22,500 in grants that will be used for a feasibility study on the restoration of the historic county courthouse.
- In Summer 2001, Governor Dirk Kempthorne declared Adams County and Payette County drought disaster areas. The declaration makes it possible for water right holders in the county to apply to the Idaho Department of Water Resources for expedited processing of temporary changes in points of water diversion.
- The Council City Council planned the construction of two new buildings at the Council Business Park. Construction should begin in spring 2002. Western Timber opened an additional manufacturing facility in the business park in late 2001.
- The New Meadows Valley Emergency Service Building opened. The facility was a joint venture by the Meadows Valley Ambulance Service and the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District. It will house four fire trucks and two ambulances.
- Other business happenings in Adams County in 2001 include the opening of The Sawtooth Café, the Community House and Thrift Store, Out of the Box, Office Express in New Meadows, and Wilson's West Dance Club in Council. Construction of the New Meadows Senior Bus Garage was completed. Evergreen Forest Products moved the kiln-drying portion of its facility to Kooskia, resulting in 34 people losing their jobs.

#### **Boise County**

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort constructed a new electric line over the summer. The new line will deliver power to the mountain to add new, faster chairlifts and help expand resort operations. Other improvements scheduled for the resort were improving lodges and skier services, upgrading the Superior chairlift from a double to a high-speed quad, and adding a second high-speed quad chairlift—Shafer Butte—up the face of the mountain.

- Bogus Basin's Passport Program was awarded the "Best Program to Grow the Sport to New Participants" by the National Ski Area's Association.
- Morris D. Huffman, former U.S. Forest Service District Ranger, was hired by Boise and Gem Counties to work on business retention, expansion, and diversification projects. The Rural Economic Development Professionals Program, associated with the Idaho Department of Commerce, provides funding for the position.

#### **Elmore County**

- The Pilot Truck Stop was rebuilt after a fire destroyed the building in July 2000. The Great American Restaurant, which also burnt, was not rebuilt; instead an Arby's restaurant was built along with a convenience store and fueling stations.
- Three Springs, Inc. (TSI) constructed a 60-bed residential correctional facility for the treatment of juvenile sex offenders. The facility is located on Industrial Way in Mountain Home and employs approximately 55 people.
- Business happenings in Elmore County in 2001 include the openings of Renaissance Consignment and Curl-Up-N-Dye Salon, Enchanted Memories, Integrity Auto Sales, Cornerstone Dental, Curves for Women, Liercke Real Estate, and Jennie's Fashion Boutique, all in Mountain Home. A new Idaho Power gas turbine plant is operational in Elmore County, and the South Fork Boise River Senior Center opened, which will benefit Pine/Featherville residents. Businesses that closed this year include King's Discount Department Store, Deb's Shoe Store, Hub Clothiers, and Flower's Galore.
- The \$35 million expansion of the Saylor Creek training range at Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) was completed in 2001. The expansion included setting up some of the 30-emitter sites (pads for parking trucks equipped to emit signals that simulate enemy radar), and the construction of a facsimile of a factory.
- The U.S. Air Force (USAF) released an announcement in mid-October outlining its plans for a realignment of MHAFB, which will result in a pure fighter wing. Within the next 1½ years, the B-1s and the KC-135Rs will be reassigned to other bases. The USAF will increase the number of maintenance personnel and expand the current Control and Reporting Element to a Control and Reporting Center. This will create a shifting of personnel but no reduction in the number of those stationed at MHAFB. Between 500 and 700 persons could be affected by the changes. The USAF also announced that MHAFB has been identified as a likely location for F-22 Rap-tor fighters in the future.

#### **Gem County**

- Boise Cascade permanently laid off 275 employees at the Emmett plant in June. The company cited federal roadless and wilderness protection policies as primary reasons federal timber has become less available over the last five years, which has decreased the available lumber supply, and sales have gone down. Positions will be lost in plywood, lumber, dry kiln, planers, premier lumber, and the co-generation plant. The laminated beam operation will continue to operate in Emmett with 33 employees.
- The Gem County District Courtroom completed a remodeling project that included a new sound system, new carpeting, and the relocation of the jury box. Individual spectator chairs in the galley were replaced with bench seating.
- A modular jail arrived in Gem County in mid-April and was placed near the existing Gem County Jail. The facility will provide beds for up to 12 minimum-security inmates and should eliminate the need for the county to send inmates to facilities in other counties, saving Gem County money.
- The following additional business developments occurred in Gem County in 2001: the Gem County Fair Office completed its \$4,800 remodeling project; the Post Office moved to its new home on Main Street; work on the Gem Island Sports Complex continued with fields ready for play and the first phase of a recreational trail complete; the Gem County Recreation District (GCRD) and the YMCA continued the discussion of a possible partnership that would bring the YMCA to Gem County; Edward Jones Investments opened a new branch; and Six Rivers Counseling opened a facility in Emmett.

#### **Owyhee County**

- The Marsing Resource Center (MRC) was selected as a site for a 4-H computer lab. The University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System 4-H program and the MRC worked together to obtain the grant bringing the Power Up computer lab to the MRC. The lab consists of 10-15 Gateway computers, a printer, and network equipment. Software, technical support, AOL accounts, and training also are part of the package. Two site staff were trained on the Power Up Internet curriculum in Washington D.C. Power Up is a charitable, not-for-profit Delaware corporation that is organized and operated for the purpose of assisting underserved youth to obtain skills, experiences, and resources required to succeed in the digital age.

#### **Payette County**

- Construction started in June on the \$15 million, 69,500-square-foot expansion on the Holy Rosary

Medical Center. The new expansion will provide extra rooms and new facilities for patients. When the project is finished, about 7,500-square-feet of the existing hospital will be remodeled, and there will be six operating rooms instead of four.

- Business developments in Payette County include the openings of Pine Pride, Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Fruitland, the Hot Spot Restaurant in Payette, the Barber and Style Shop in Payette, Fruitland Produce Barn, Daily Buzz in New Plymouth, and the construction of a new greenhouse at Howard's Landscape and Nursery in Fruitland. The Independent-Enterprise newspaper moved to a new location that is nearly three times larger than the previous building. Woodgrain Millwork in Fruitland permanently laid off 40 employees in early 2001.
- In July, Payette County was granted funding to hire an economic development coordinator. The position is funded through the Rural Economic Development Professional Outreach Program, and grant monies total \$30,000. The county will contribute an additional \$20,000 to the arrangement. The total money will be used to help support the coordinator with office space, furniture, and supplies. The coordinator will work with Payette County and its cities to market its economic potential.

#### **Valley County**

- Boise Cascade permanently closed its sawmill located in Cascade. The closure affected nearly 80 employees who worked at the sawmill. A steady decline in federal timber sales forced the closure of the Cascade sawmill, and company officials said that federal timber policies were to blame.
- Shore Lodge in McCall officially changed its name to Manchester on Payette Lake, and the opening was further postponed until June 2002. Manchester on Payette Lake was sold to Randall R. Perkins, a San Diego resident, for \$13 million in December 2001. The new owner plans to return the name of the lodge to Shore Lodge and hopes to open the lodge and the golf course by June 2002.
- Construction started on the Holiday Inn Express at the south end of McCall. The three-story motel is located on Idaho Highway 55, across from the Pancake House. When completed, it will include 125 guest rooms, several meeting rooms, a swimming pool, and a spa. It will be the largest motel in McCall.
- The Valley County Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved a scaled-back development application for the proposed WestRock Lake Cascade four-season resort near Donnelley. The State Land Board still needs to approve the proposal before any development can occur; a meeting with

the Land Board is scheduled for February 7, 2002 in Boise.

- Other business developments in Valley County in 2001 include the openings of the Wild Bear Pub & Grub in McCall, Forest Concepts in the Cascade industrial park, and Epicurean, a new restaurant in Hotel McCall in December. The Pancake House started construction on a new building adjacent to its current location and will open in 2002.

#### **Washington County**

- Construction was completed on the Vendome Events Center in Weiser. The \$1.2 million facility held a grand opening in late November, and the Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation's annual Festival of Trees was featured at the grand opening celebration. The Weiser Chamber of Commerce moved to its new office at the Vendome Events Center in December.
- The Idaho Travel Council awarded the Weiser Chamber of Commerce a \$4,000 matching grant that was used towards the production of new brochures showcasing Washington County, primarily Weiser and surrounding areas.
- Other business developments in Washington County in 2001 include the opening of the financial consulting firm Salomon Smith Barney, and the closing of Stark's Eclectic Gifts in Weiser. Dr. Paul Smith and his wife, Mary Ann, opened a surgical practice in Weiser at Memorial Hospital's Medical Specialty Clinic.
- The State of Idaho approved an application submitted by Washington and Adams Counties to fund a new economic development specialist position serving the two-county region. The two counties will receive between \$20,000 and \$45,000 to fund a full-time economic development specialist who will work on business retention, expansion, and diversification projects for both counties. Lisa Wolfe was named the Enterprise Facilitator for the Adams-Washington County Region. Lisa will assist entrepreneurs in the two counties with free and confidential business management coaching.

---

Jennifer Pirtle, Regional Labor Economist  
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642  
(208) 895-6642  
E-mail: jpirtle@labor.state.id.us

### **Shoshone County**

In 2001, Shoshone County endured the fourth period of major mine closures in 20 years. The county's largest mine, the Sunshine, closed in February. Before its first layoff in June 2000, the Sunshine employed more than 260 people. In November 2001, low silver prices forced the Lucky Friday Mine to lay off 140 of its 185 workers. Now, only one major mine, the Galena, remains completely operational with a crew of 220. Following the Lucky Friday layoff, mining employment fell below 360, its lowest level in more than 110 years. (The county's mining and smelter employment peaked in 1981 at 4,100 jobs.)

Of the 6,800 Shoshone County residents who participate in the labor force, about 800—11.9 percent—were unemployed and actively seeking work in an average month of 2001. (See Panhandle Table 2 (cont.) on page 8.) The unemployment rate is expected to soar during the next couple of months as the full effects of the Lucky Friday Mine layoff are felt.

The Silver Valley is struggling with the ramifications of the mine layoffs. Some families are choosing to move out of the valley. Dozens of former Shoshone County miners now work at the Stillwater mine near Nye, Montana. The county's population most likely has fallen below the 2000 level of 13,700. A declining population and lower tax revenues made school districts and local governments cut jobs during the last year. Construction activity has declined throughout the last three years.

The county's tourism sector expects to grow over the next few years. Silver Mountain Ski Resort in Kellogg recently enjoyed a major facelift and plans to expand its ski terrain and to break ground this summer on two

high-speed quad chairlifts. Silver Mountain's long-term plans include adding an 18-hole golf course and up to 950 condo units. The Route of the Hiawatha, a 46-mile non-motorized trail along an old railroad bed through the Silver Valley, opened in late 2000 and has received favorable attention.

The downturn in the county's economic fortunes caused *Retail Trade* to cut about 30 jobs. Dave Smith Motors, an auto dealership in Kellogg, employs more than 200 people and ties with the Galena Mine for the honor of being the county's largest private employer.

The Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation (SVEDC) is developing a 78-acre light industrial park next to Interstate 90 in Smelterville. The park's first tenant, Tele-Servicing Innovations (TSI), moved in this fall. Last winter, TSI announced its intention to open a call center there. While it was waiting for the building to be completed, TSI hired 40 Silver Valley residents to work in temporary quarters in Coeur d'Alene, and bused them from the Silver Valley to Coeur d'Alene. An economic development grant recently provided \$115,000 for an expansion at the business park that will allow TSI to double its work force to 90.

In the face of misfortune, Silver Valley residents are increasing their economic development efforts. They are pursuing the possibility of opening a zinc refinery. In addition to creating 300 jobs, the refinery could lead to the expansion or reopening of mines. The new director of the SVEDC is working to find more tenants for the industrial park and to recruit new businesses.

---

Kathryn Tacke, Regional Labor Economist  
1221 W. Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 769-1558 ext. 340  
E-mail: ktacke@labor.state.id.us





# MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

South Central Idaho has not been immune to the economic slowdown and tendency toward recession that has been prevalent in the rest of the state and the nation as shown in Magic Valley Table 1. However, the effects on South Central Idaho have not been as pronounced as elsewhere. *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 1.1 percent from 2000 to 2001, and the unemployment rate was three-tenths of a percentage point lower in 2001; the overall number of unemployed people was down 7.8 percent. *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were down 1.8 percent year-over-year. The sectors that experienced the largest percentage decreases were *Mining & Construction*; *Transportation, Communication, & Utilities*; *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate*; and *Government Administration*, which lost 7.2 percent, 5.7 percent, 7.8 percent, and 13.4 percent, respectively. One interesting decrease was in the *Services* sector, which lost 5.3 percent. This is notable because the *Services* sector has been the fastest growing sector in the labor force over the past three years. The two sectors with major increases in 2001 were *Retail Trade* and *Government Education* with 5.4 percent and 10.9 percent increases, respectively.

Yet despite the unmistakable signs of economic cooling, the Magic Valley seems to be avoiding some of the more serious problems experienced in other parts of the state and the nation. The reasons are varied. First, Idaho remains predominantly a resource-based state, most notably in timber, mining, and agriculture. The timber and mining industry suffered

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding Counties			
	Projected 2001	2000	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	47,880	47,350	1.1
Unemployed	1,900	2,060	-7.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.4	
Total Employment	45,980	45,290	1.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	37,120	37,800	-1.8
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	7,160	7,280	-1.6
Mining & Construction	1,930	2,080	-7.2
Manufacturing	5,230	5,200	0.6
Durable Goods	850	780	9.0
Nondurable Goods	4,380	4,420	-0.9
Food Processing	3,290	3,430	-4.1
Other Durable Goods	1,090	990	10.1
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	29,960	30,520	-1.8
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,830	3,000	-5.7
Wholesale Trade	2,300	2,390	-3.8
Retail Trade	8,190	7,770	5.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,300	1,410	-7.8
Services	8,510	8,990	-5.3
Government Administration	3,170	3,660	-13.4
Government Education	3,660	3,300	10.9

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period

setbacks, and mines and timber mills in Northern Idaho were forced to close. But in the agricultural sector, the picture was a bit different. Due to some drought conditions, the Idaho Power electrical buy-back, and some farmers leaving the market, production decreased significantly, and agricultural commodity prices rose perceptibly. In South Central Idaho, the dairy industry has stabilized agricultural employment. Dairy prices have been strong, and many former migrant workers now have full-time, year-round work. Furthermore, many farmers have changed their crop mixes toward feed grains, hay, and other crops to accommodate dairy demand. These types of crops have shorter growing seasons, are less labor intensive, and cost less to irrigate. So, of the three resource-based industries in Idaho, agriculture has fared much better than mining and timber.

Second, South Central Idaho has very little heavy manufacturing and high technology jobs. Nationwide, those two sectors have experienced a tremendous number of layoffs. In the Boise area alone, there have been over 5,000 layoffs in the circuit board, computer-making, and chip producing industries. The Magic Valley has virtually none of these industries and has not been affected by their volatility.

Third, consumer confidence is high, stimulating retail and economy growth. Since South Central Idaho has avoided major layoffs, consumers are still optimistic. Thus far the winter water year has been excellent and bodes well for breaking the cycle of drought. All of these factors have contributed to keeping the Magic Valley somewhat insulated, although not immune, to exterior forces.

What is the outlook for 2002? The first half of the year continues to look good for employment. Workers hired by the new Dell Computer technical support center in Twin Falls will go on payroll in January 2002, which should offset normal post holiday reductions in force. Several new retailers should employ about 200-300 new part-time workers by the end of the first quarter. State revenue is an area of concern, however. Already state agencies are cutting costs and laying off workers. The College of Southern Idaho and the local school districts are facing serious personnel cutbacks, and the loss of these good-paying professional jobs will have an impact on the local economy. If state funding continues to be severely curtailed and state services trimmed back, it cannot fail but to have a negative impact on the local economy. However, the Magic Valley economy should continue to outperform the rest of the state. Unemployment will be stable or perhaps slightly higher. The agricultural year should be good if the winter precipitation persists. Tourism will recover with the breaking of the drought. With more water, Idaho Power should not need to increase rates and thus business costs should be stable. All in all, 2002 is a year to look forward to with cautious optimism.

## **2001 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Twin Falls County**

- Dell Computer announced that it would be locating a consumer technical support center in the old Albertson's building on Pole Line Road in Twin Falls. This center will handle a variety

of Dell customer inquiries regarding Dell personal computer equipment. Initially, the center is expected to employ 200-250 workers. The effort to bring Dell to Twin Falls was a remarkable example of teamwork between local economic development entities and the state of Idaho. Dell completed negotiations with the city of Twin Falls on October 15, 2001, with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The state of Idaho concluded its MOU on October 19, 2001, with Governor Dirk Kempthorne's signature. The Idaho Departments of Labor and Commerce were closely involved in the agreement, and Governor Kempthorne played an essential role in the procurement of the building. Magic Valley Job Service has been centrally involved in the process with Dell's human resources department and the College of Southern Idaho. Job Service staff conducted hundreds of personal telephone screenings and assisted in Dell overviews and interviews on nights and weekends. As of late December, Dell had hired the initial 130 workers it needs for its January 2002 training period of four weeks, and it is proceeding with interviews and hiring for a February 2002 class of 120 workers. The company plans to begin operating in February 2002.

- Four major department stores, three restaurants, and a financial institution have committed to open new business establishments in 2002 in the Canyon Park development in North Twin Falls. The development includes a retail, restaurant, and convention center on the rim of the Snake River Canyon. Neilsen & Co. is the regional real estate developer for the Canyon Park development. The Outback Restaurant opened in that area in mid-2001. The International House of Pancakes and Johnny Carino's Country Italian Restaurant plan to locate there in the second quarter of 2002. Department stores that have committed to locating in the development include T.J. Maxx, Old Navy, Famous Footwear, and Michael's. Zions National Bank also will build and locate a branch in this area. These businesses will create 200-250 full- and part-time jobs in the retail, services, and financial sectors by the middle of 2002.
- Magic Valley Regional Medical Center announced plans to purchase most of the Twin

Falls Clinic & Hospital by January 1, 2002. All of the clinic's inpatient services and outpatient surgery will be sold to the medical center. The clinic presently is licensed for 44 inpatient beds. The clinic's emergency department will close and Magic Valley Regional Medical Center will expand its emergency department to compensate for the increased patient load. The clinic will continue to function as a physician center with expanded hours for routine patient care. The doctors located in the clinic will continue to practice as before. The merger will possibly displace 25-50 workers.

- Albertson's closed its Pole Line Road store on September 10, 2001, as part of a corporate-wide cost-cutting strategy. The move affected approximately 70 workers. The building did not remain vacant for long and was a central part of the successful recruitment that brought Dell Computers to Twin Falls.
- The U.S. Postal Service closed its postal encoding center in Twin Falls in August 2001. The closure was the result of new technology that reduced the need for manual processing of handwritten and poorly printed addresses. The closure affected 105 workers. Career postal employees were offered employment in other postal facilities, but the remaining workers were displaced. The Twin Falls center, which opened in 1992, was operated by a private contractor until 1996 when the U.S. Postal Service took over operations.
- In June 2001, the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization (SIEDO) began operations and hired its first executive director. Jan Rogers, formerly the marketing director for the *Times-News*, was selected as executive director from a pool of 30 applicants. She has more than 25 years of experience in marketing and management in Texas and the Magic Valley. SIEDO was formed by a coalition of public and private sector leaders from Twin Falls and Jerome as a means to formalize and coordinate efforts to attract new employers to the area and to assist existing businesses to expand.

#### **Jerome, Gooding, Lincoln, Blaine, and Camas Counties**

- Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne attended the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremonies

for the new Tele-Servicing Innovations, Inc. (TSI) call center in Jerome on August 1, 2001. Also in attendance were TSI President Jeff Neiswanger, Idaho Lt. Governor Jack Riggs, Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen, Idaho Department of Commerce Director Gary Mahn, and State Representative Maxine Bell along with many business and civic leaders. Governor Kempthorne praised Jerome's economic development efforts and cited Jerome as a leader in rural economic development. He also announced approval of a \$500,000 Rural Community Development Grant for the creation of a business park and high-tech campus located near the Jerome butte. The funds are allocated for infrastructure improvements. TSI opened in July 2001, employing approximately 100 workers.

- WestFarm Foods, a Seattle-based dairy processor, announced plans to construct a 70,500-square-foot milk dehydration plant next to its existing condensing plant in Jerome. The new facility in the Jerome Industrial Park will have the initial capacity to convert 3.3 million pounds of locally processed milk per day into nonfat dry milk. The company said it designed the new plant to be further expanded to process six million pounds of milk per day into cheese, whey, or nonfat dry milk, depending upon prevailing markets. The new dehydration plant will add 23 permanent full-time jobs when it begins operations in July 2002.
- Wendell School District voters approved a 20-year, \$4.6 million plant levy that will finance construction of a new 56,000-square-foot middle school and a separate 3,000-square-foot vocational technical building. Approval of the levy also secured a \$1.5 million state Safe School plant facilities grant that will be used to pay interest on the levy amount.
- AT&T announced the location of its new Point of Presence (PoP) site on the butte east of Jerome in 2001. The new facility allows AT&T Internet users a closer connection point to the fiber optics line that runs through downtown Jerome as opposed to connecting in Pocatello or Boise. Jerome is one of only two such PoP sites recently located in Idaho. The other site serves the Lewiston area. The two sites together represented a \$1.5 million investment by

AT&T. This new site is expected to trigger interest in bringing new technology businesses to the area.

- Mexican President Vincente Fox, Mexican First Lady Marta Sahaguin de Fox, and Mexico's Ambassador to the United States, Juan Jose Bremer, attended a retreat sponsored by Allen & Company in Sun Valley. President Fox was the keynote speaker. The annual event is a gathering of media and business leaders from across the United States and the world. President Fox spoke about improved trade relations between the United States and Mexico, as well as other issues such as immigration. Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne also met with President Fox to discuss trade issues between Idaho and Mexico.
- In 2001, an affordable housing complex was dedicated in the City of Hailey. The Balmoral Apartment Complex is reserved for residents earning 30 to 60 percent of the area median income, or \$19,950 to \$39,900. Rent for one, two, and three bedroom apartments ranges from \$330 to \$775 per month. The project was made possible through federal low income housing tax credit that is administered on behalf of the state by the Idaho Housing and Finance Association. The 192-unit apartment complex is a response to the increasing need for affordable housing in the Blaine County area.

#### **Cassia and Minidoka Counties**

- The Heyburn City Council voted unanimously to annex 32 acres that include the J.R. Simplot Heyburn Plant. The council had been considering this for several months, but had suspended action on this while city and company officials negotiated electrical rates. However, there was not satisfactory progress made and the city proceeded with annexation. Simplot countered with litigation alleging that the city's electrical rates were unreasonable and exorbitant. The issue was sent to the Fifth District Court where it was ruled that the city had acted properly in its annexation and would not award Simplot any reparations for high electrical rates. The court did not completely rule out a decision on whether the rates are unreasonable. Simplot is considering an appeal to the ruling.

- Wal-Mart confirmed that it will expand its present Burley store into a supercenter. The plans call for a 73 percent expansion in square footage to a total of 161,320-square feet. This will make the store slightly larger than the Jerome supercenter that was built in 2000. Construction is expected to begin in early 2002 with completion expected by 2003. The store presently employs approximately 200 people and could hire as many as 250 more people when the expansion is complete.
- Minidoka County School District voters approved a \$10.3 million plant facilities levy. The levy will finance extensive remodeling and equipment upgrades to several district schools, although the majority of the money will finance improvements at Minico High School. Residents will not see a tax increase because the district retired a 20-year bond issue in February 2001.
- The College of Southern Idaho announced a \$230,000 expansion of its nursing program in the Mini-Cassia area to include laboratory and clinical instruction for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). The CSI branch in Burley has more than 60 students in a two-year Registered Nursing program, but its LPN program was offered only in Twin Falls. The expansion is in response to local shortages of LPNs. About 20 students per year will participate in the Mini-Cassia program, according to estimates. Combined with the Twin Falls program, the college will graduate about 40 new LPNs per year. The new program will feature classes at the CSI branch in Burley, and students will receive training in laboratory methods at Minico High School's lab. CSI is equipping that lab with an interactive video system for LPN students. The entire training course will last approximately one year.

---

Gregory Rogers, Regional Labor Economist  
771 N. College Road, Twin Falls, ID 83303  
(208) 736-3000  
E-mail: grogers@labor.state.id.us



# SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Maintaining the tradition of an annual review, this newsletter is dedicated to reviewing the year 2001. Since information continues to be gathered for the year and only limited statistics are available, Labor Force numbers were projected for the year 2001. The number of 2001 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* is estimated through October based on January through June employment and the monthly sampling of businesses. Total *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* is then projected through the end of the year using typical monthly links or five-year average changes and is adjusted for area economic activity.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* will be reported only for the Pocatello MSA and county detail will be reported when it becomes available.

## 2001

Drought was the common denominator for all counties' economies over the year. The year 2001 started out with a bang. Employment was at an all-time high throughout Southeast Idaho but winter shortchanged the area with a second year of drought. Then oil prices skyrocketed, power became scarce, energy prices soared, and the domino effect began.

As the U.S. fell into recession, Southeast Idaho continued to gain momentum. Since the area did not experience the same high level of economic boom as the U.S., it subsequently did not experience the drastic level of bust either. The Southeast Idaho economy actually began to show signs of slowing toward the end of 2000 when *Transportation, Wholesale Trade*, and *Retail Trade* employment dipped. The added stress of drought, the slowing U.S. and global economy, and energy crisis took its toll on the area. Agriculture was the first industry to feel the effects of drought, and many crop growers were faced with power and water shortages. Many growers entered into a

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)	Projected 2001	2000	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	40,500	39,500	2.5%
Unemployment	1,820	1,970	-7.6%
Percent Unemployed	4.5	5.0	0.5%
Total Employment	38680	37530	3.1%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
<b>TOTAL Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	33,262	32,721	1.7%
<b>Goods Producing Industries</b>	4,592	4,518	1.6%
Construction	1,861	1,669	11.5%
Manufacturing	2,731	2,849	-4.1%
<b>Service Producing Industries</b>	28,670	28,203	1.7%
Trans./Comm./Util	1,772	1,787	-0.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,443	1,449	-0.4%
Retail Trade	7,078	7,036	0.6%
Fin./Ins./Real Estate	1,621	1,570	3.2%
Services	8,045	7,849	2.5%
Government Admin.	3,446	3,424	0.6%
Government Educ.	5,265	5,089	3.5%

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

power buy-back agreement with Idaho Power and either decreased the amount of crops planted or took a chance and planted more dry-land crops. Tourism in Southeast Idaho also felt the effects of drought, and the *Trade* and *Service* industries that rely on tourism experienced decreased business. The slowing global economy, energy crisis, and trade deficit finally took its toll on Southeast Idaho, and the area lost manufacturing and mining jobs. The full effect of the economic downturn will not likely be fully known until the latter part of 2002.

The bright spot in the area's economy was in *Construction*. Low interest rates drove construction up in nearly every area of Southeast Idaho. *Finance* and *Insurance* also saw increased activity in 2001, and the agriculture industry fared much better than in the previous three years.

In November, the entire Southeast Idaho area received earlier and heavier snowfall than normal and provided the area with encouragement for normal snowfall and mountain accumulations through next spring.

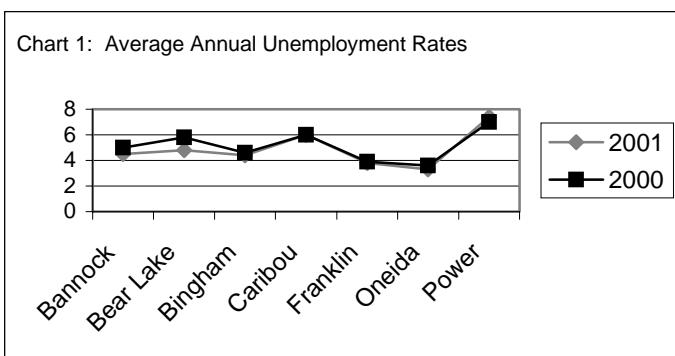
## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Despite the loss of many jobs in the Pocatello area during 2001, Table 2 shows the Pocatello MSA's average unemployment rate is projected to drop five-tenths of a percentage point from 5.0 percent in 2000 to 4.5 per-

cent in 2001. Year-over-year, the *Civilian Labor Force* increased by 1,000 individuals, but 1,150 more individuals reported that they had found employment in 2001 than in 2000. Also during 2001, 150 fewer individuals reported being unable to find work. Reductions at American Microsystems, Inc. (AMI) and Astaris LLC in Pocatello had little effect on the unemployment rate in 2001. Because the Astaris reductions occurred late in the year, the unemployment rate did not change until November, which had little effect on the yearly average. The AMI reductions occurred in June but did not significantly affect the average unemployment rate because the economy was able to absorb many of the laid-off workers.

Even though the U.S. economy fell into recession in March 2001, *Chart 1: Average Annual Unemployment Rates*, shows that area unemployment rates remained at or just slightly above the 2000 annual averages. While job losses in *Mining and Manufacturing* plagued many Southeast Idaho counties, low interest rates and a surprisingly improved agricultural sector kept the economy stable for most of the year.

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in the Pocatello



Metropolitan Statistical Area is expected to increase by 1.7 percent in 2001 over 2000 for a net gain of 541 jobs. The rate of job growth declined four-tenths of a percentage point from the rate of job growth in 2000.

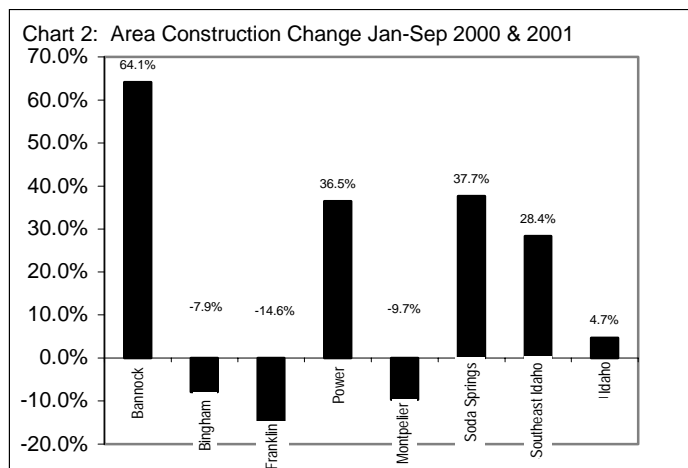
The *Goods-Producing Industries*, *Construction* and *Manufacturing*, increased 1.6 percent and gained 74 jobs. Low interest rates throughout the year sparked increased activity in residential and commercial construction, which added 192 jobs in 2001. *Manufacturing* jobs declined by 118 over the year and partially offset job growth in *Construction*. Job reductions in *Manufacturing* were mostly the result of a layoff of 210 workers from AMI in Pocatello. The layoff was the result of slowing in the electronics industry worldwide.

The *Service-Producing Industries*—*Transportation, Communications & Utilities*; *Wholesale and Retail Trade*; *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate*; *Services*; and *Government*—increased 1.7 percent and gained 467 jobs in 2001. Leading the *Service-Producing Industries* in job growth was *Government Education* (3.5 percent). Job growth occurred in *State Government Education* because of added jobs at

Idaho State University. *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* increased 3.2 percent because of expanded services and jobs at Farmers Insurance in Pocatello and increased activity in *Banking and Credit Unions and Securities*. *Services* increased 2.5 percent and most growth occurred in local call centers. After a decline in jobs in 2000, *Retail Trade* held steady with a slight job increase (0.6 percent) in 2001. Two industries, *Transportation, Communications & Utilities* and *Wholesale Trade* lost jobs in 2001. Losses in the two industries were minimal at 0.8 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively.

## AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Construction helped maintain the area's economic momentum in 2001 and was most likely because of low interest rates. From January through September 2001, Southeast Idaho construction surpassed January through September 2000 by 28.4 percent. In comparison, the state's construction during the same period of time increased just 4.7 percent. Residential construction in Southeast Idaho increased 3.7 percent; commercial construction decreased 50.9 percent; and additions, alterations, and repairs increased 59.0 percent. Increased residential construction activity from this year to last year was driven by Bannock County, while commercial construction increased in every county except Bingham and Franklin Counties. The decrease in Bingham and Franklin Counties' was largely because of two major projects, one in each county, which began in 2000 and ended in 2001. The construction permits were obtained in 2000 so it appears the two cities suffered declines in 2001, but many of the jobs created by the projects lasted well into this year. Despite the economic downturn, individuals and business continued to invest in new construction and upgraded existing structures in 2001. *Chart 2: Area Construction* shows the change in construction by area from 2000 to 2001.



### Bannock County

Through September 2001, construction increased 64.1 percent over the first nine months of 2000. Residential construction increased 26.1 percent, commercial con-

struction increased 93.9 percent, and additions, alterations, and repairs increased 95.4 percent.

- Home Depot built and opened a regional building supply store in Pocatello. The store added about 130 jobs to the area's economy.
- The Golden Corral built a new restaurant on the Fred Meyer Campus in Pocatello. The restaurant opened in November and added approximately 35 jobs.
- Convergys expanded its operation in Pocatello and added approximately 250 jobs in 2001. The company expects to do additional hiring in 2002.
- Anderson Lumber began rebuilding its \$1.5 million outdoor lumberyard, which was destroyed by fire.
- Farm Bureau continued work on its 93,000-square-foot headquarters office in Pocatello. Completion is expected in 2002.
- R Homes Corporation of Pocatello closed its business and eliminated about 40 jobs in January 2001.
- The Union Pacific Railroad eliminated 14 jobs in its Pocatello locomotive department in January 2001. The job reductions occurred because of indications of a nationwide economic slowdown.
- American Microsystems, Inc. (AMI) reduced its Pocatello workforce by approximately 220 jobs in May 2001. Reductions occurred mainly because the economy in general, and the semiconductor industry in particular, had slowed.
- Grover Electric and Plumbing Supply store in Chubbuck closed and eliminated approximately 15 jobs.

#### **Bear Lake County**

Construction in Montpelier during the first three quarters of 2001 dropped 9.7 percent below the first three quarters of 2000. The decline occurred in residential construction while commercial construction and additions, alterations, and repairs increased 16.6 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively.

- Construction of an addition to the A.J. Winters Elementary school in Montpelier, which began in the spring of 2001, was completed in December 2001. The project included a gymnasium, which doubles as an auditorium.
- B&L Doors, Windows, and Trim opened at 829 Washington in Montpelier.
- A new fabric store opened in the historic Odd Fellows building in downtown Montpelier. The owners plan to renovate the entire building, which will house other businesses and facilities for special events.

#### **Bingham County**

Through September 2001, construction activity declined 7.9 percent from the first nine months of 2000. Additions, alterations and repairs increased 40.7 percent but residential and commercial construction decreased 9.7 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively. Several projects were started in 2000 and maintained jobs in Bingham County throughout most of 2001.

- Blackfoot celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year as an incorporated city in 2001. The city celebrated with several Centennial activities throughout the year.
- Construction was completed on a new Super 8 Motel in Blackfoot. The motel employs approximately 10 people.
- A new professional office building, The Manwaring Building, was constructed and opened in Blackfoot. The building houses one business and has space for several other professional offices.
- C-A-L Ranch began site preparation of its new store in Blackfoot. The new store will be twice the size of Blackfoot's current C-A-L Ranch store at approximately 30,000-square feet. When the new store opens, the store will increase its workforce from 15 to 25.
- Carol Holm Financial built a new office building on Meridian Street in Blackfoot. The business, which currently employs three people, plans to expand its financial counseling with additional employees.
- Only \$1 opened at the Riverside Plaza in Blackfoot. The 10,000-square-foot store employs approximately 15 people.
- The Bronco Stop, a convenience store and fast food/deli, opened in Blackfoot. The business employs six workers.

#### **Caribou County**

Construction activity increased 37.7 percent in Soda Springs during the first three quarters of 2001 over the first three quarters of 2000. Commercial construction accounted for the increased activity in the area as it increased by more than \$1 million. Residential construction and additions, alterations, and repairs dropped 72.7 percent and 56.8 percent, respectively.

- Construction of the Agrium purified phosphate manufacturing facility in Caribou County, which began early in 2000, was completed in April 2001. The project added hundreds of construction jobs throughout 2000 and into 2001.
- The historic Enders Hotel in Soda Springs was restored. The 30-room bed and breakfast houses a restaurant and gift shop.



- In June, Astaris reduced its Dry Valley Mine workforce in Soda Springs by nine people. The reduction was linked to decreased productivity at Astaris in Pocatello. Another reduction of approximately 14 workers occurred at the end of December.

### **Franklin County**

Construction activity during the first nine months of 2001 declined 14.6 percent from the first nine months of 2000. Decline occurred in commercial construction, down 44.2 percent, and in residential construction, down 10.6 percent. Additions, alterations, and repairs increased 64.5 percent. Commercial and residential construction soared in 2000 so the decline in 2001 was expected.

- Bear River Publishing completed construction of their new publishing facility in Preston. The business employs approximately 30 people and is the first business to locate in the Preston Industrial Park.
- A historic 185-foot-tall smokestack landmark in Preston, formerly used by Pet Milk Company, was demolished. Construction of a new fire/ambulance station will begin at that location.
- The Preston Golf and Country Club completed and opened the back nine holes of its golf course near Preston.
- A dollar store, 4 Quarters, opened on State Street in Preston.

### **Oneida County**

Construction declined 26.8 percent in Oneida County during the first nine months of 2001 from the first nine months of 2000. Residential construction dropped 56.6 percent, commercial construction dropped 25.0 percent, and additions, alterations, and repairs dropped 8.0 percent. Since construction information for Oneida County is provided by a different source, it cannot be compared with other counties in the area.

- Construction of a 24,460-square-foot Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which began in July, was completed in 2001.
- Nana's Attic opened in April 2001 in Malad's Uptown Mall.

### **Power County**

Construction for the first nine months of 2001 exceeded construction for the first nine months of 2000 by 36.5 percent. Commercial construction increased by 50.7 percent and additions, alterations, and repairs increased 24.7 percent. Residential construction dropped 39.8 percent.

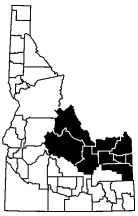
- Construction of a new American Falls High School, which began in 1999, continued throughout 2001.

Completion of the school is expected in time for the fall school year in 2002.

- J.R. Simplot Company conducted a \$15 million upgrade at its Don Plant in Power County. The project was completed during the summer.
- Spring Creek Manor, an assisted living center, opened in American Falls. The 8,000-square-foot facility will employ about 15 workers.
- Astaris, LLC closed its elemental phosphorus manufacturing plant in December and eliminated more than 400 jobs at the facility. Power County will lose about 11 percent of its tax base in 2002 because of the closure of the Astaris manufacturing facility near Pocatello. While most of the workers at the facility reside in Bannock County many also reside in Power County. Astaris cites high energy costs, environmental issues, and increased market competition as reasons for the closure.

---

Shelley Allen, Regional Labor Economist  
430 N. 5th Avenue, Pocatello, ID 83205  
(208) 235-5454  
E-mail: [sallen@labor.state.id.us](mailto:sallen@labor.state.id.us)



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) in Table 1 shows an increase of over 3,000 people in the *Civilian Labor Force* from the year 2000 to 2001. Population growth, resulting more from natural age progression of the residents than from in-migration, along with more residents entering the labor force, contributed to the increase. The data shows that the projected number of unemployed workforce decreased by 60 and total employment increased 3,159.

The unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.6 percent year-over-year. Tighter labor markets during 2001 resulted from more jobs, steady employment, and fewer seasonal swings that can cause ripple effects throughout the economy. Eight months out of the year, the Bonneville LMA held the lowest unemployment rate of all other LMA's and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) in the state. The yearly decrease in the unemployment rate resulted from the contribution of many variables:

- Call centers received more contracts which allowed for more positions and company expansions,
- Some INEEL subcontractors hired instead of laid off employees,
- More concentrated awareness on economic development was apparent in all counties,
- Grant and loan money was available and communities were made aware of it,
- Lower interest rates helped companies to grow and consumers to buy,
- A strong economy was apparent in the first half of the year, and
- Early retirements and incentives offered by the INEEL helped soften the blow of layoffs.

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson Counties	Projected 2001	2000	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Civilian Labor Force	83,351	80,252	3.9
Unemployed	2,965	3,025	-2.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.8	
Total Employment	80,386	77,227	4.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	63,580	61,810	2.9
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	9,570	9,310	2.8
Mining & Construction	4,350	4,030	7.9
Manufacturing	5,220	5,280	-1.1
Food Processing	2,760	2,820	-2.1
Industrial & Commercial Mach. & Comp. Equip.	460	590	-22.0
All Other Manufacturing	2,000	1,870	7.0
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	54,000	52,500	2.9
Transportation & Comm., & Utilities	2,350	2,350	0.0
Wholesale Trade	5,980	6,080	-1.6
Retail Trade	11,380	11,430	-0.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,900	1,800	5.6
Services	21,620	20,780	4.0
Government Administration	5,590	4,880	14.5
Government Education	5,180	5,180	0.0

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased more than 1,700 year-over-year. The main increase was noticed in *Service-Producing Industries*, which added 1,500 jobs. *Services* added 840 jobs, most in the *Business Services* sector. Other sectors that showed growth were *Health Services*, *Social Services*, and *Hotels & Other Lodging*. *Government Administration* grew by over 700 jobs. One significant change in this industry during the year was the reclassification of the Indian tribal administration, which changed from the private to the governmental sector. Since Bingham County includes the Fort Hall Reservation, those numbers are reflected here.

*Construction* also increased by 320 jobs as residential construction has been very noticeable in the counties. Most of this construction is taking place in Bonneville County, but Jefferson County is seeing more growth with the announcement of BYU-Idaho (formerly Ricks College) in Rexburg and advertisement of an up-scale subdivision selling lots and homes around Rigby Lake. Commercial construction has kept a steady pace, but 2002 promises to bring more activity. Although most of the construction for BNFL Idaho—the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project in Butte County at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)—has already taken place, finishing touches will continue through

2002. McNeil Development will construct two professional office buildings and a convenience store/fast food/retail building this year as part of a new commercial real estate development—Taylor Crossing on the River—in Idaho Falls. Anheuser-Busch will be doubling the size of its malt plant on Jameston Road. The latest announcement is that Grupo Modelo, the Mexican brewing company that makes Corona Extra, will also build a malt plant on Jameston Road behind Anheuser-Busch. (See **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS** on page 33 for more information on these.)

Decreases in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* year-over-year consisted of the following:

- 60 (net loss) in *Manufacturing as Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* lost 130 jobs, *Food Processing* lost 60 jobs, and *All Other Manufacturing* gained 130 jobs. One contributor to the decrease in *Industrial and Commercial Machinery* was a hard agricultural season due to water and power shortages.
- 100 in *Wholesale Trade with Durable Goods* losing the majority of the jobs as a ripple effect from the *Manufacturing* industry loss mentioned above.
- 50 in *Retail Trade* as several smaller restaurants and retail stores closed and many existing stores thinned out their workforce over the year and used existing workforce instead of hiring seasonal workers during the holidays.

## 2001 HIGHLIGHTS

The first half of the year saw a strong and confident economy. As talks of layoffs at the INEEL became a reality, water shortages for farmers became more visible, and the national economy showed signs of a recession, the local economy slowed down and the mood became cautious and unsure of the future. However, despite concerns, the counties have concentrated on furthering their economic development, and efforts have been successful in the LMA and Northeast Idaho counties.

Early in 2001, the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce named Michael Kuhns as their new chief executive officer. Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council (EIEDC) named Jim Bowman as the chief executive officer. Both men are devoted to the communities they serve and are visible and involved in new developments.

With a kick-off from EIEDC's annual meeting in the middle of 2001, a technology corridor is being developed and marketed under the cooperation of economic development groups, civic and community leaders and agencies, and the INEEL's economic development director. The corridor spans from Pocatello to Rexburg. Seven committees are addressing all aspects of points to consider for attracting and maintaining/growing businesses

in the high-tech arena and the companies that support them.

Call centers have grown in Northeast Idaho. An available labor force with good work ethics and viable skills, including bilingual capabilities, have been key contributors for the interest and success of these companies. Expansion into rural communities has also become more noticeable over the year. Updated phone and computer lines, and the associated communications capabilities, are the biggest elements in determining where expansion can take place. Center Partners started the year with a new, second building, Qwest added employees and filled their building to capacity, TSI moved locations to accommodate its workforce, Melaleuca opened a call center in Rexburg, ML Technologies opened a call center in St. Anthony, and Western Wats substantially expanded its workforce and added space in Rexburg.

Health facilities grew as need and desire became apparent. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls expanded its emergency room to 30 beds and added its own scan and X-ray machines, a central monitoring system, and a pneumatic tube system to transport lab orders, samples and prescriptions. Madison Memorial Hospital in Rexburg added a permanent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine since they had been operating with a mobile unit twice a week. Several care centers opened in Idaho Falls, and construction of a 17-bed hospital will help serve residents within a 250-mile radius of Idaho Falls when completed in the fall of 2002.

Downtown improvements were seen in many communities throughout the area as grants and loans became available and match money was secured. Revitalization continues to occur in many older downtown areas. Some existing shops are moving while other companies are finding existing infrastructures that will accommodate their needs and are moving in. Several museums expanded and became more modernized during the year. Needed water and sewer updates were implemented to help improve several communities.

Economic development strategists were hired to work in four counties as part of a grant award. These strategists work closely with local leaders and businesses and to help market their areas to those entities wishing to expand or create businesses. Their work helps to boost the morale of communities, keeping towns alive and adapting to needs of the residents and the economy.

The INEEL helped many businesses grow, expand, and train their workforces in 2001. Bechtel BWXT Idaho announced that it exceeded its goal of helping to generate 2,400 jobs and accomplished it three years earlier than expected. Due to budgetary allocations, the INEEL was expected to lay off 1,200 employees by the end of

the year. However, approximately 750 employees were affected with early retirements, voluntary separations, and involuntary separations by the end of 2001. An additional 200 to 400 are still expected in the summer of 2002 unless allocations change in INEEL's favor. Several sub-contractors were still able to hire during this time, which helped some that were affected in layoffs. BNFL Idaho is still in the process of hiring and expects to have over 200 hired throughout the year 2002. Over the year, the INEEL has seen many of its developments and creations go public, and several companies now have contracts with them that offer great potential. In August, Bernie Meyers retired as general manager of Bechtel BWXT Idaho (the INEEL's prime contractor), and Bill Shipp was named to take his place.

Several smaller retail shops and restaurants have entered the surrounding markets and others have closed. Overall, the growth is positive and steady. New developments have promised to bring momentum to this growth (see **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS** below for more information).

#### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

- Taylor Crossing on the River, a 45-acre professional business park on the Snake River in Idaho Falls, has been showing signs of activity during 2001. Dynamite blasts could be felt throughout the city as rock was cleared away for utilities and roadwork to be completed. In 2002, two of the business park's buildings will be constructed along with a convenience/fast food/retail shop. The campus-theme atmosphere will include high-tech capabilities, professional companies, restaurants, and condos along with retail shops. The development will be an extension of the city's river greenbelt and will feature professional landscaping interspersed with waterways.
- Ttest, the biotech manufacturing company that manufactures saliva test strips to test blood alcohol levels, is still planning to build in the area, but the weakened economy has somewhat affected its market. It plans to build on acreage that Rexburg donated to the business park as incentive to locate there. The company will hire 300 to 500 people over five years. It is currently operating out of rented space in Idaho Falls and in California where it originated.
- Wal-Mart announced plans to build a supercenter in the Idaho Falls area, but the location has not yet been secured. The current Wal-Mart location on 17th Street will close and that property will become available.
- The Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, and Education Center celebrated its introduction to the new 71-acre home on Highway 28 just east of Salmon city limits

in the fall of 2001. The center plans have been drawn up, and construction is expected to start soon. Funding issues are still being discussed for ongoing maintenance, but the center is expected to be a well-visited spot over the next several years with the publicizing of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

- Anheuser-Busch will expand its malt plant, doubling its existing size, and Grupo Modelo will build its own malt plant just behind Anheuser-Busch in Idaho Falls. The opening of the Grupo Modelo brewery was a result of the Trade Mission to Mexico which included an Idaho delegation. Both projects will start in 2002; expected completion will be 2004 for Anheuser-Busch and 2005 for Grupo Modelo. The employee base, however, is not expected to be large due to the high level of automation used by the plants. The farmers will greatly benefit from these ventures as they will be able to secure contracts with these local companies for their barley. The tax base and expansion of utilities to service the companies also will help the community.
- Business parks and incubation centers are being developed throughout the nine-county region. With available locations and economic developers overseeing growth, there is expected to be much more in store for the LMA and the region in 2002 and beyond.

---

Tanya Albán, Regional Labor Economist  
150 Shoup Avenue, Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
(208) 542-5628  
E-mail: talban@labor.state.id.us

## State Overview—(Continued from page 3)

classified as *Business Services*; some are classified in *Communications*. However, within *Business Services*, some call centers that increased employment included Center Partners, TSI, Sears Regional Credit Center, and Convergys. The new private prison, located south of Boise, opened in January adding 300 jobs in *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* in the *Management Services* classification. This helped to offset job losses at Bechtel BWXT Idaho where more job losses are anticipated in 2002.

The other large, private employment industry group in *Services-Producing Industries* is *Trade with Retail Trade* dominating the group. Overall, *Retail Trade* added 1,500 jobs for a 1.4 percent growth rate, which is about the same as the state's overall job growth rate. However, the growth in 2001 is about one-fourth of the growth experienced in 2000. Fewer new "big box" stores opened their doors during the year. Also, the slowdown in the economy caused retailers, especially the smaller ones, to be cautious about expanding their businesses or employment base. The growth in *General Merchandise Stores* (about 1,100 new jobs) and *Eating & Drinking Places* (about 600 new jobs) helped to offset the loss of 400 jobs in *Food Stores*. About 200 new jobs in *General Merchandise Stores* were a result of the reclassification of Fred Meyer as a department store rather than a food store. Not only were several hundred jobs lost in the *Food Stores* group when Fred Meyer was reclassified, but about 400 jobs were lost when Albertson's trimmed employment in Idaho at their corporate office and closed their Twin Falls grocery store. Wal-Mart and Meir & Frank (Dillard's) were just two department stores in Idaho that expanded during 2001. *Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations* weathered the ups and downs of gas prices, interest rates, and consumer confidence as over 200 new jobs were added during the year. The year ended with lots of sales encouraging shoppers to buy, but fewer temporary jobs were available during the holiday season.

*Services* includes two industries related to tourism: *Hotels & Other Lodging Places* and *Amusement and Recreation Services*. The tourist industry was sluggish during the year and even prior to September 11. Hotel reservations had begun to slow and after the terrorist attacks, many conferences/conventions were cancelled resulting in layoffs. However, the recreation industry reported that several hundred winter seasonal jobs carried over into early 2001 resulting in a more stable workforce during the first six months. An additional 1,000 workers were hired in June as the summer tourist season began—this was about 300 more than in 2000.

The 1.5 percent decrease in *Federal Government* reflects the number of jobs in 2000 that were created by

the 2000 census. Because there were no longer a large number of temporary census workers employed in 2001, and very few forest/range fires, there was an average annual loss of 200 jobs. The state's public colleges and universities added 360 jobs while *State Government Administration* added only 20 jobs. Most of the new government jobs were at the local level. Two-thirds of the new jobs were in *Local Government Education* as school districts struggled with providing teachers, support staff, and facilities for the growing number of children entering school. The addition of over 400 jobs in *Local Government Administration* were in the areas of roads, recreation, and other public works.

Although the annual numbers don't look too bad, Idaho's employment levels began to deteriorate in the spring in many industries. The impact of the September 11 events, while not having a direct affect on Idaho's economy, the trickledown effect and the national recession took their toll. The projected 1.7 percent growth in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* is the lowest since 1987 when a 0.6 percent job growth occurred. That small growth followed a 1.2 percent loss in *nonfarm jobs* between 1985 and 1986. In 1986 the unemployment rate was 8.7 percent. The economy is expected to slow in 2002 with continued job losses through second quarter. The department will publish its 2002-2003 forecast in the February issue of *Idaho Employment*.

### FYI

The FYI section features the annual county, labor market area, and city labor force data in FYI Table 1 (pages 35-38). The monthly state tables with November 2001 data are in FYI Tables 2-3 (pages 39-41). The November labor force and nonfarm data for the six labor market areas is located in FYI Table 4 (pages 42-24). The February 2002 issue will return to the normal format.

---

Janell Hyer, Regional Labor Economist Supervisor  
317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735  
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3220  
E-mail: jhyer@labor.state.id.us

## Labor Force Tables

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 2000 & 2001

	2001*	2000	Percent Change from 2000
<b>ADA COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	180,276	170,914	5.5
Unemployment	6,040	5,070	19.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.0	
Employment	174,236	165,844	5.1
<b>ADAMS COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	1,691	1,625	4.0
Unemployment	219	211	4.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	13.0	13.0	
Employment	1,471	1,415	4.0
<b>POCATELLO MSA (BANNOCK COUNTY)</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	40,644	39,502	2.9
Unemployment	1,851	1,969	-6.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	5.0	
Employment	38,793	37,533	3.4
<b>BEAR LAKE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	2,812	2,831	-0.7
Unemployment	134	165	-18.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	5.8	
Employment	2,678	2,666	0.4
<b>BENEWAH COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	4,454	4,443	0.2
Unemployment	450	553	-18.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.1	12.4	
Employment	4,004	3,891	2.9
<b>BINGHAM COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	22,747	21,908	3.8
Unemployment	996	1,012	-1.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.6	
Employment	21,751	20,896	4.1
<b>BLAINE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	12,083	11,327	6.7
Unemployment	343	373	-8.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	3.3	
Employment	11,740	10,955	7.2

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, & SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 2000 & 2001

	2001*	2000	Percent Change from 2000
<b>BOISE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	2,466	2,343	5.3
Unemployment	122	167	-27.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	7.1	
Employment	2,345	2,176	7.8
<b>BONNER COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	17,720	17,396	1.9
Unemployment	1,422	1,560	-8.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.0	9.0	
Employment	16,297	15,836	2.9
<b>BONNEVILLE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	48,289	46,478	3.9
Unemployment	1,531	1,558	-1.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.4	
Employment	46,758	44,921	4.1
<b>BOUNDARY COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	4,596	4,465	2.9
Unemployment	398	386	3.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.6	8.6	
Employment	4,199	4,080	2.9
<b>BUTTE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	1,662	1,596	4.2
Unemployment	63	59	6.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.7	
Employment	1,600	1,537	4.1
<b>CAMAS COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	391	406	-3.6
Unemployment	19	16	15.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.0	
Employment	372	390	-4.4
<b>CANYON COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	69,079	65,365	5.7
Unemployment	3,501	2,945	18.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	4.5	
Employment	65,578	62,420	5.1

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, &amp; SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 2000 &amp; 2001

	2001*	2000	Percent Change from 2000
<b>CARIBOU COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	3,211	3,083	4.1
Unemployment	190	186	2.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	6.0	
Employment	3,020	2,897	4.2
<b>CASSIA COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	9,644	9,537	1.1
Unemployment	560	654	-14.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	6.9	
Employment	9,084	8,883	2.3
<b>CLARK COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	601	576	4.2
Unemployment	27	28	-3.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.8	
Employment	574	549	4.6
<b>CLEARWATER COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	3,849	3,936	-2.2
Unemployment	550	564	-2.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	14.3	14.3	
Employment	3,299	3,372	-2.2
<b>CUSTER COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	2,214	2,062	7.3
Unemployment	162	147	10.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.3	7.1	
Employment	2,052	1,916	7.1
<b>ELMORE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	9,496	9,163	3.6
Unemployment	558	556	0.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	6.1	
Employment	8,938	8,607	3.8
<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	4,953	4,712	5.1
Unemployment	190	182	4.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.9	
Employment	4,763	4,530	5.1
<b>FREMONT COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	4,679	4,694	-0.3
Unemployment	298	328	-9.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.4	7.0	
Employment	4,381	4,366	0.3
<b>GEM COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	6,583	6,237	5.6
Unemployment	502	363	38.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.6	5.8	
Employment	6,081	5,874	3.5

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, &amp; SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 2000 &amp; 2001

	2001*	2000	Percent Change from 2000
<b>GOODING COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	6,648	6,585	1.0
Unemployment	231	254	-9.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.9	
Employment	6,417	6,330	1.4
<b>IDAHO COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	6,309	6,116	3.2
Unemployment	590	626	-5.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.4	10.2	
Employment	5,719	5,491	4.2
<b>JEFFERSON COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	10,654	10,269	3.7
Unemployment	376	396	-4.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.9	
Employment	10,277	9,873	4.1
<b>JEROME COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	8,939	8,878	0.7
Unemployment	341	396	-13.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	4.5	
Employment	8,598	8,483	1.4
<b>KOOTENAI COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	57,563	55,717	3.3
Unemployment	4,483	4,141	8.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	7.4	
Employment	53,080	51,576	2.9
<b>LATAH COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	14,648	15,164	-3.4
Unemployment	530	523	1.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.4	
Employment	14,118	14,641	-3.6
<b>LEMHI COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	3,597	3,667	-1.9
Unemployment	272	330	-17.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.5	9.0	
Employment	3,325	3,337	-0.4
<b>LEWIS COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	1,583	1,524	3.9
Unemployment	117	117	0.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	7.7	
Employment	1,466	1,407	4.1
<b>LINCOLN COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	1,910	1,832	4.3
Unemployment	73	89	-18.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	4.9	
Employment	1,837	1,743	5.4

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, &amp; SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 2000 &amp; 2001

	2001*	2000	Percent Change from 2000
<b>MADISON COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	11,521	11,021	4.5
Unemployment	224	272	-17.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.9	2.5	
Employment	11,297	10,749	5.1
<b>MINIDOKA COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	9,706	9,723	-0.2
Unemployment	602	703	-14.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.2	7.2	
Employment	9,105	9,019	0.9
<b>NEZ PERCE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	22,899	22,687	0.9
Unemployment	923	947	-2.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.2	
Employment	21,976	21,740	1.1
<b>ONEIDA COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	1,817	1,703	6.7
Unemployment	61	62	-1.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	3.6	
Employment	1,756	1,641	7.0
<b>OWYHEE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	4,296	4,251	1.1
Unemployment	189	178	5.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.2	
Employment	4,108	4,073	0.9
<b>PAYETTE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	10,252	9,988	2.6
Unemployment	780	690	13.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.6	6.9	
Employment	9,471	9,298	1.9
<b>POWER COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	3,603	3,543	1.7
Unemployment	267	247	8.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.4	7.0	
Employment	3,336	3,297	1.2
<b>SHOSHONE COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	6,802	6,548	3.9
Unemployment	809	725	11.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.9	11.1	
Employment	5,993	5,823	2.9
<b>TETON COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	3,624	3,314	9.3
Unemployment	89	104	-14.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.5	3.1	
Employment	3,535	3,210	10.1

FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, &amp; SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 2000 &amp; 2001

	2001*	2000	Percent Change from 2000
<b>TWIN FALLS COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	32,220	31,891	1.0
Unemployment	1,328	1,414	-6.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.4	
Employment	30,893	30,477	1.4
<b>VALLEY COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	4,223	4,107	2.8
Unemployment	329	320	2.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.8	7.8	
Employment	3,894	3,787	2.8
<b>WASHINGTON COUNTY</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	4,639	4,575	1.4
Unemployment	377	392	-3.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.1	8.6	
Employment	4,261	4,183	1.9
<b>ASOTIN COUNTY WASHINGTON</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	11,579	11,801	-1.9
Unemployment	508	537	-5.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.5	
Employment	11,071	11,264	-1.7
<b>PANHANDLE LMA</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	91,136	88,570	2.9
Unemployment	7,563	7,365	2.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.3	8.3	
Employment	83,573	81,205	2.9
<b>SEAPORT LMA</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	34,478	34,488	0.0
Unemployment	1,430	1,483	-3.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.3	
Employment	33,047	33,004	0.1
<b>IDAHO-LEWIS LMA</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	7,892	7,640	3.3
Unemployment	708	742	-4.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	9.0	9.7	
Employment	7,184	6,898	4.2
<b>BOISE MSA</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	249,355	236,278	5.5
Unemployment	9,541	8,015	19.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.4	
Employment	239,814	228,264	5.1
<b>MAGIC VALLEY LMA</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	47,807	47,353	1.0
Unemployment	1,900	2,063	-7.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.4	
Employment	45,908	45,290	1.4



FYI TABLE 1: LABOR FORCE DATA BY COUNTY, LABOR MARKET AREA, &amp; SELECTED CITIES , ANNUAL AVERAGES: 2000 &amp; 2001

	2001*	2000	Percent Change from 2000
<b>CASSIA-MINIDOKA LMA</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	19,257	19,270	-0.1
Unemployment	1,115	1,298	-14.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	6.7	
Employment	18,143	17,972	1.0
<b>Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Jefferson LMA</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	83,351	80,252	3.9
Unemployment	2,965	3,025	-2.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.8	
Employment	80,386	77,227	4.1
<b>IDAHO CITIES</b>			
<b>BOISE</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	114,098	108,177	5.5
Unemployment	3,781	3,174	19.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	2.9	
Employment	110,317	105,004	5.1
<b>COEUR D' ALENE</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	20,302	19,668	3.2
Unemployment	1,214	1,121	8.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	5.7	
Employment	19,088	18,547	2.9
<b>IDAHO FALLS</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	29,817	28,702	3.9
Unemployment	986	1,004	-1.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	3.5	
Employment	28,831	27,698	4.1
<b>LEWISTON</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	19,540	19,356	1.0
Unemployment	689	707	-2.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.7	
Employment	18,851	18,649	1.1
<b>NAMPA</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	21,110	19,966	5.7
Unemployment	1,151	968	18.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.5	4.8	
Employment	19,959	18,998	5.1
<b>POCATELLO</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	29,103	28,283	2.9
Unemployment	1,305	1,388	-6.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.9	
Employment	27,798	26,894	3.4
<b>TWIN FALLS</b>			
Civilian Labor Force	16,853	16,683	1.0
Unemployment	729	776	-6.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.6	
Employment	16,124	15,907	1.4

FYI TABLE 2: NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT - PLACE OF WORK - STATE OF IDAHO

	November 2001	October 2001	November 2000	Percent Change from Last Month	Percent Change from Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	573,600	575,800	571,800	-0.4	0.3
Goods-Producing Industries	114,400	117,100	117,400	-2.3	-2.6
Mining	2,000	2,200	2,500	-9.1	-20.0
Metal Mining	700	800	1,200	-12.5	-41.7
Construction	37,800	39,200	37,500	-3.6	0.8
Manufacturing	74,600	75,700	77,400	-1.5	-3.6
Durable Goods	45,800	46,100	47,800	-0.7	-4.2
Lumber & Wood Products	10,700	11,000	11,800	-2.7	-9.3
Logging	2,500	2,500	2,200	0.0	13.6
Sawmills & Planing Mills	3,600	3,700	4,400	-2.7	-18.2
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	900	1,000	1,100	-10.0	-18.2
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,700	3,800	4,100	-2.6	-9.8
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,400	1,400	1,500	0.0	-6.7
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	3,000	3,000	3,100	0.0	-3.2
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	9,600	9,600	10,500	0.0	-8.6
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	15,200	15,300	14,900	-0.7	2.0
Transportation Equipment	2,200	2,200	2,300	0.0	-4.3
Other Durable Goods	3,700	3,600	3,700	2.8	0.0
Nondurable Goods	28,800	29,600	29,600	-2.7	-2.7
Food Processing	17,000	17,700	17,500	-4.0	-2.9
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,200	9,600	9,500	-4.2	-3.2
Paper Products	2,200	2,100	2,200	4.8	0.0
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	5,400	5,400	5,500	0.0	-1.8
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,100	2,200	2,300	-4.5	-8.7
Other Nondurable Goods	2,100	2,200	2,100	-4.5	0.0
Service-Producing Industries	459,200	458,700	454,400	0.1	1.1
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	29,600	29,800	28,400	-0.7	4.2
Transportation	18,500	18,700	17,800	-1.1	3.9
Railroad	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	11,000	11,000	10,400	0.0	5.8
Communications	7,000	7,000	6,600	0.0	6.1
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4,100	4,100	4,000	0.0	2.5
Trade	142,500	141,800	146,700	0.5	-2.9
Wholesale Trade	32,000	32,200	33,900	-0.6	-5.6
Durable Goods	15,000	15,000	15,800	0.0	-5.1
Nondurable Goods	17,000	17,200	18,100	-1.2	-6.1

FYI TABLE 2 (Cont.): NONFARM WAGE &amp; SALARY EMPLOYMENT - PLACE OF WORK - STATE OF IDAHO

	November 2001	October 2001	November 2000	Percent Change from Last Month	Percent Change from Last Year
Retail Trade	110,500	109,600	112,800	0.8	-2.0
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,300	6,500	6,600	-3.1	-4.5
General Merchandise Stores	14,500	13,800	15,100	5.1	-4.0
Food Stores	19,200	19,200	20,100	0.0	-4.5
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,500	12,500	12,100	0.0	3.3
Eating & Drinking Places	37,600	38,000	37,600	-1.1	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	23,900	23,800	23,700	0.4	0.8
Banking	7,200	7,200	7,300	0.0	-1.4
Services	150,300	150,100	144,900	0.1	3.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7,400	7,900	7,500	-6.3	-1.3
Personal Services	4,400	4,400	4,300	0.0	2.3
Business Services	30,600	30,800	30,600	-0.6	0.0
Amusement and Recreation Services	6,500	6,300	5,600	3.2	16.1
Health Services	38,300	38,000	36,300	0.8	5.5
Hospitals	13,000	12,900	11,700	0.8	11.1
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	18,900	18,500	18,800	2.2	0.5
Government	112,900	113,200	110,700	-0.3	2.0
Federal Government	12,700	13,400	13,400	-5.2	-5.2
State & Local Government	100,200	99,800	97,300	0.4	3.0
State Government	29,900	30,300	28,900	-1.3	3.5
Education	15,100	15,100	14,400	0.0	4.9
Administration	14,800	15,200	14,500	-2.6	2.1
Local Government	70,300	69,500	68,400	1.2	2.8
Education	41,100	40,200	39,600	2.2	3.8
Administration	29,200	29,300	28,800	-0.3	1.4

1-Preliminary Estimate

2-Estimates include all full- or part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

*Data prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

Material in this document is public domain and may be reproduced without permission of the Idaho Department of Labor. However, the Idaho Department of Employment should be cited as the source.

FYI Table 3: State Economic Indicators

IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>	November 2001	October 2001	November 2000	% Change from Last Month	% Change from Last Year
Civilian Labor Force- <i>adjusted</i>	689,500	688,900	665,300	0.1	3.6
Unemployment	35,600	33,400	32,200	6.6	10.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	4.8	4.8		
Total Employment	653,900	655,500	633,100	-0.2	3.3
Civilian Labor Force- <i>unadjusted</i>	689,900	690,200	665,800	0.0	3.6
Unemployment	33,000	27,700	29,400	19.1	12.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.0	4.4		
Total Employment	656,900	662,500	636,400	-0.8	3.2
<b>U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE<sup>(2)</sup></b>	5.7	5.4	4.0		
<b>U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX<sup>(2)</sup></b>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	173.7	174.0	170.9	-0.2	1.6
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	177.4	177.7	174.1	-0.2	1.9
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Agriculture Employment	32,150	42,130	31,000	-23.7	3.7
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	670	670	480	0.0	39.6
Hired Workers	22,460	32,450	21,500	-30.8	4.5
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE</b>					
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	16,489	12,035	13,043	37.0	26.4
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	70,200	61,409	45,201	14.3	55.3
Benefit Payment Activities <sup>(5)</sup>					
Weeks Compensated	56,529	48,428	35,352	16.7	59.9
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$12,262,507	\$10,535,855	\$7,068,402	16.4	73.5
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$216.92	\$217.56	\$199.94	-0.3	8.5
Covered Employers	40,450	40,343	39,016	0.3	3.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$144,124,027	\$138,929,922	\$105,374,570	3.7	36.8
(1) Preliminary Estimate, (2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, (4) Includes: All Entitlements/Programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent					
(5) Includes: All Entitlements/Programs, Total Liabile Activities					

HOURS AND EARNINGS TRENDS	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Nov-01	Oct-01	Nov-00	Nov-01	Oct-01	Nov-00	Nov-01	Oct-01	Nov-00
Mining	\$681.39	\$685.86	\$595.98	40.9	42.6	39.6	\$16.66	\$16.10	\$15.05
Construction	\$639.09	\$664.80	\$603.95	38.2	38.9	37.7	\$16.73	\$17.09	\$16.02
Total Manufacturing	\$608.64	\$583.98	\$576.80	38.4	38.7	40.0	\$15.85	\$15.09	\$14.42
Lumber & Wood Products	\$535.05	\$550.16	\$508.38	36.9	38.1	37.0	\$14.50	\$14.44	\$13.74
Food & Kindred Products	\$489.24	\$480.82	\$493.38	40.4	42.4	41.6	\$12.11	\$11.34	\$11.86
Communications	\$804.53	\$759.29	\$730.97	43.0	40.8	40.7	\$18.71	\$18.61	\$17.96
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$811.73	\$804.81	\$908.73	39.5	38.6	39.7	\$20.55	\$20.85	\$22.89
Trade	\$319.74	\$320.75	\$314.10	29.2	29.4	29.3	\$10.95	\$10.91	\$10.72
Wholesale Trade	\$501.62	\$504.10	\$517.65	35.5	35.4	35.7	\$14.13	\$14.24	\$14.50
Retail Trade	\$270.88	\$271.05	\$258.78	27.5	27.8	27.5	\$9.85	\$9.75	\$9.41
*These earnings are computed on a gross basis, and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wages. (Data prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics)									

FYI Table 4: LMA Labor Force &amp; Employment — Panhandle

	Nov. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	90,820	90,690	90,050	0.1	0.7
Unemployed	7,630	6,710	8,100	13.7	-17.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.4	7.4	9.0		
Total Employment	83,190	83,980	81,950	-0.9	2.5
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	91,060	89,810	90,110	1.4	-0.3
Unemployed	6,990	5,370	7,300	30.2	-26.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.7	6.0	8.1		
Total Employment	84,070	84,440	82,810	-0.4	2.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	13,470	14,080	14,820	-4.3	-5.0
Mining	600	670	990	-10.4	-32.3
Construction	4,630	4,800	4,980	-3.5	-3.6
Manufacturing	8,240	8,610	8,850	-4.3	-2.7
Lumber & Wood Products	4,000	4,210	4,150	-5.0	1.4
All Other Manufacturing	4,240	4,400	4,700	-3.6	-6.4
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	54,030	54,200	52,060	-0.3	4.1
Transportation	1,430	1,560	1,460	-8.3	6.8
Communication & Utilities	1,080	1,070	1,100	0.9	-2.7
Wholesale Trade	2,110	2,110	2,260	0.0	-6.6
Retail Trade	15,350	15,390	15,240	-0.3	1.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,720	2,710	2,470	0.4	9.7
Service & Miscellaneous	17,690	17,760	16,280	-0.4	9.1
Government Administration	7,850	7,760	7,710	1.2	0.6
Government Education	5,800	5,840	5,540	-0.7	5.4

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

FYI Table 4 (cont.): LMA Labor Force &amp; Employment — Seaport

	Nov. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington</b>					
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	33,940	34,070	33,920	-0.4	0.1
Unemployment	1,360	1,290	1,730	5.4	-21.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.8	5.1		
Total Employment	32,580	32,780	32,190	-0.6	1.2
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	33,810	33,880	34,020	-0.2	-0.6
Unemployment	1,280	1,090	1,600	17.4	-20.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.2	4.7		
Total Employment	32,530	32,790	32,420	-0.8	0.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,700	5,010	4,800	-6.2	-2.1
Mining & Construction	970	1,240	1,100	-21.8	-11.8
Manufacturing	3,730	3,770	3,700	-1.1	0.8
Food Processing	70	80	60	-12.5	16.7
Lumber & Wood Products	700	710	720	-1.4	-2.8
Paper Products	1,680	1,680	1,730	0.0	-2.9
All Other Manufacturing	1,280	1,300	1,190	-1.5	7.6
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	20,460	20,460	20,280	0.0	0.9
Transportation	1,340	1,320	1,340	1.5	0.0
Communications & Utilities	280	280	260	0.0	7.7
Wholesale Trade	900	900	970	0.0	-7.2
Retail Trade	5,120	5,090	5,380	0.6	-4.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,360	1,330	1,390	2.3	-2.2
Services	6,470	6,530	6,700	-0.9	-3.4
Government Administration	2,490	2,500	1,780	-0.4	39.9
Government Education	2,500	2,510	2,460	-0.4	1.6

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

FYI Table 4 (cont.): LMA Labor Force &amp; Employment — Treasure Valley

				% Change	
Boise MSA (Ada and Canyon counties)	Nov. 2001*	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2000	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	250,700	253,100	238,200	-0.9	5.2
Unemployment	11,300	11,100	7,600	1.8	48.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.4	3.2		
Total Employment	239,400	242,000	230,600	-1.1	3.8
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	252,900	251,400	240,300	0.6	5.2
Unemployment	10,800	10,000	7,200	8.0	50.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.0	3.0		
Total Employment	242,100	241,400	233,100	0.3	3.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	233,000	232,900	228,500	0.0	2.0
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
<b>Mining &amp; Construction</b>	18,000	18,200	16,600	-1.1	8.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	35,700	36,000	37,500	-0.8	-4.8
Durable Goods	27,200	27,500	28,900	-1.1	-5.9
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,300	3,200	-3.0	0.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,500	2,300	-4.0	4.3
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,300	0.0	-15.4
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	6,400	6,500	8,300	-1.5	-22.9
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,000	13,100	12,500	-0.8	4.0
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,800	1,800	1,900	0.0	-5.3
Nondurable Goods	8,500	8,500	8,600	0.0	-1.2
Food Products	5,600	5,600	5,700	0.0	-1.8
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	900	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
<b>Trans, Comm, &amp; Public Util</b>	12,300	12,300	12,200	0.0	0.8
Transportation	6,800	6,800	6,700	0.0	1.5
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,500	5,500	5,500	0.0	0.0
<b>Trade</b>	58,200	57,400	57,600	1.4	1.0
Wholesale Trade	13,400	13,400	13,800	0.0	-2.9
Durable Goods	8,100	8,200	8,300	-1.2	-2.4
Nondurable Goods	5,300	5,200	5,500	1.9	-3.6
Retail Trade	44,800	44,000	43,800	1.8	2.3
General Merchandise Stores	6,600	6,300	6,100	4.8	8.2
Foods Stores	7,300	7,200	7,800	1.4	-6.4
Eating & Drinking Places	15,500	15,500	14,800	0.0	4.7
Other Retail Trade	15,400	15,000	15,100	2.7	2.0
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>	11,100	11,000	11,100	0.9	0.0
<b>Services</b>	61,700	62,000	59,100	-0.5	4.4
Business Services	14,700	14,900	15,000	-1.3	-2.0
Health Services	18,900	18,800	16,700	0.5	13.2
Hospitals	9,100	9,000	7,600	1.1	19.7
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,600	4,700	4,700	-2.1	-2.1
Other Services	23,500	23,600	22,700	-0.4	3.5
<b>Government</b>	36,000	36,000	34,400	0.0	4.7
Federal Government	5,200	5,200	5,000	0.0	4.0
State Government	13,300	13,400	12,700	-0.7	4.7
Education	4,700	4,800	4,400	-2.1	6.8
Administration	8,600	8,600	8,300	0.0	3.6
Local Government	17,500	17,400	16,700	0.6	4.8
Education	11,600	11,400	11,100	1.8	4.5
Administration	5,900	6,000	5,600	-1.7	5.4

FYI Table 4 (cont.): LMA Labor Force &amp; Employment — Magic Valley

Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties	Nov. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	47,980	47,740	47,120	0.5	1.8
Unemployment	2,020	1,960	2,060	3.1	-1.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.1	4.4		
Total Employment	45,960	45,780	45,060	0.4	2.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	48,140	48,410	47,760	-0.6	0.8
Unemployment	1,870	1,620	1,670	15.4	12.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.3	3.5		
Total Employment	46,270	46,790	46,090	-1.1	0.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	36,960	37,260	38,470	-0.8	-3.9
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	7,150	7,260	7,360	-1.5	-2.9
Mining & Construction	1,920	1,990	2,010	-3.5	-4.5
Manufacturing	5,230	5,270	5,350	-0.8	-2.2
Durable Goods	890	870	910	2.3	-2.2
Nondurable Goods	4,340	4,400	4,440	-1.4	-2.3
Food Processing	3,260	3,340	3,360	-2.4	-3.0
All Other Nondurable Goods	1,080	1,060	1,080	1.9	0.0
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	29,810	30,000	31,110	-0.6	-4.2
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,540	2,570	2,960	-1.2	-14.2
Wholesale Trade	2,280	2,280	2,300	0.0	-0.9
Retail Trade	8,300	8,260	8,550	0.5	-2.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,250	1,240	1,330	0.8	-6.0
Services	7,880	8,010	8,330	-1.6	-5.4
Government Administration	3,560	3,580	3,750	-0.6	-5.1
Government Education	4,000	4,060	3,890	-1.5	2.8
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

FYI Table 4 (cont.): LMA Labor Force &amp; Employment — Southeast Idaho

Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)	Nov. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2000	% Change From Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	41,180	41,310	40,020	-0.3	2.9
Unemployment	2,170	1,920	1,850	13.0	17.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.3	4.6	4.6		
Total Employment	39,010	39,390	38,170	-1.0	2.2
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	42,210	41,360	41,040	2.1	2.9
Unemployment	2,070	1,710	1,760	21.1	17.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	4.1	4.3		
Total Employment	40,140	39,650	39,280	1.2	2.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	34040	33780	33730	0.8	0.9
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	4,550	4,550	4,560	0.0	-0.2
Mining & Construction	1,900	1,940	1,650	-2.1	15.2
Manufacturing	2,650	2,610	2,910	1.5	-8.9
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	29,490	29,220	29,160	0.9	1.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,750	1,770	1,800	-1.1	-2.8
Wholesale Trade	1,450	1,460	1,470	-0.7	-1.4
Retail Trade	7,420	7,290	7,570	1.8	-2.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,640	1,630	1,420	0.6	15.5
Services	8,140	7,960	8,000	2.3	1.8
Government Administration	3,440	3,440	3,420	0.0	0.6
Government Education	5,650	5,680	5,490	-0.5	2.9
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

FYI Table 4 (cont.): LMA Labor Force &amp; Employment — Northeast Idaho

				% Change From	
	Nov. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2000	Last Month	Last Year
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties					
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	85,480	84,180	83,100	1.5	2.9
Unemployment	3,040	2,730	3,110	11.4	-2.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.2	3.7		
Total Employment	82,440	81,450	79,990	1.2	3.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	85,340	85,520	82,900	-0.2	2.9
Unemployment	2,670	2,280	2,690	17.1	-0.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	2.7	3.2		
Total Employment	82,670	83,240	80,210	-0.7	3.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	65,070	64,580	62,510	0.8	4.1
Goods-Producing Industries	9,900	10,110	9,360	-2.1	5.8
Mining & Construction	4,510	4,680	4,000	-3.6	12.8
Manufacturing	5,390	5,430	5,360	-0.7	0.6
Food Processing	3,080	3,020	2,870	2.0	7.3
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	440	440	500	0.0	-12.0
All Other Manufacturing	1,870	1,970	1,990	-5.1	-6.0
Service-Producing Industries	55,170	54,470	53,150	1.3	3.8
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,540	2,620	2,380	-3.1	6.7
Wholesale Trade	5,750	5,630	6,030	2.1	-4.6
Retail Trade	11,520	11,270	11,620	2.2	-0.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,910	1,890	1,910	1.1	0.0
Services	21,900	21,850	21,020	0.2	4.2
Government Administration	5,850	5,830	4,780	0.3	22.4
Government Education	5,700	5,380	5,410	5.9	5.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					



# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Labor Market Area (LMA):** An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):** An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.



# IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
317 W MAIN STREET  
BOISE ID 83735

59-205-500

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**